

A
HISTORY OF SIKESTON

AUDREY CHANEY

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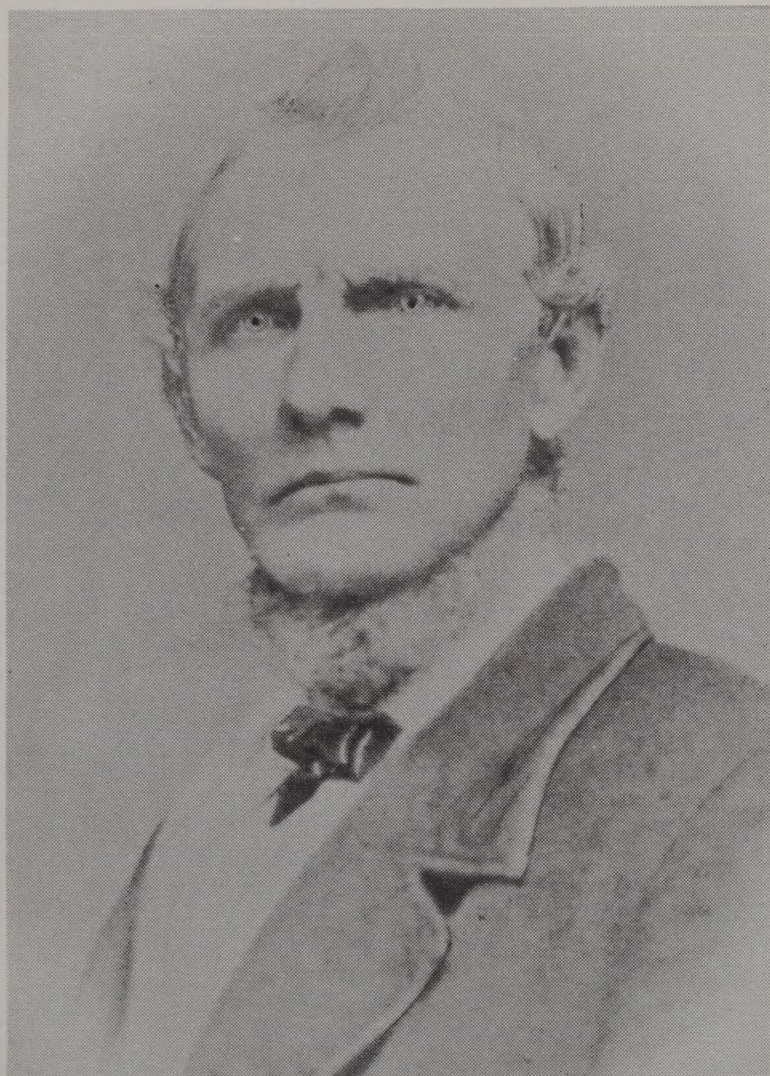
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John Sikes
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THE FOUNDERS OF SIKESTON

A
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of
SIKESTON

by
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IN TRIBUTE

AT THIS CENTENNIAL TIME

TO THE PIONEERS OF THIS AREA
BEFORE THERE WAS A SIKESTON

TO THE CITIZENS WHOSE EFFORTS
ESTABLISHED SIKESTON AND DEVELOPED IT
THROUGH THE YEARS

TO THE SIKESTONIANS OF TODAY
WHO ARE CONTINUING THE WORK BEGUN
A HUNDRED YEARS--AND MORE--AGO . . .

TO THE SIKESTONIANS OF TOMORROW
TO WHOM WE WILL HAND ON
THE RICH HERITAGE

Sample Page 5.50

APPRECIATIVE ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO ALL
WHO HAVE MADE THIS HISTORY POSSIBLE

In one small book it is not possible to include the whole story, but it is hoped that important items are included and that the whole gives an accurate and interesting portrait of Sikeston and its environs.

I am indebted to so many friends for assistance that it is not possible to mention them all. We are particularly indebted to Dr. Handy L. Smith, Mr. F. H. Smith, Mrs. Eula Bowman Shanks, Mr. Lynn Twitty, Mrs. Edna Johnson, Miss Anna Randol, Miss Caroline Hess, Miss Isabell Hess, Miss Mary Kochtitzky, Mr. Clint Denman, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Barrett, Mr. Ewart Taylor, Mr. Edward C. Matthews, Mrs. L. M. Stallcup, Colonel Harry Dudley, Mr. S. B. Hunter, and to numerous others who have furnished information.

Audrey Chaney

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Chapter One

EARLY TIMES

The first known human occupants of this region were the Mound Builders. They were not numerous, though Southeast Missouri has over 18,000 identifiable mounds. Undoubtedly these ancient people hunted, fished, and farmed a bit in this area as they did in most of the Mississippi and Ohio valleys.

The first white men to visit this land of plenty, as far as is known, were DeSoto and his followers. After the conquest of Peru and nearly fifty years after Columbus' discovery, DeSoto, a brave and able officer, and his followers came to Florida. Their elaborate entourage journeyed northwestward, discovered and crossed the Fa-

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ther of Waters, and finally in 1541 came to an Indian village in Southeast Missouri which was probably located in the vicinity of New Madrid. They remained here with this Casquin tribe for several days and later spent some time with the Capahas farther north.

About a century after DeSoto made his famous explorations two daring French traders from Quebec, Radisson and Groseiliers, voyaged by canoe down the Mississippi south from the mouth of the Missouri River, and probably saw some of the area around this section. At least they accurately described the Osage Indians found here by later explorers.

Another famous explorer of the Mississippi Valley, Robert Cavalier de LaSalle, gazed at the present location of Cape Girardeau. In 1682 LaSalle and his party of twenty-three Frenchmen and eighteen Indians floated past the place on their way to the south of the Mississippi.

April 8, 1682, he very ceremoniously claimed the area for France, and named it Louisiana honoring Louis XIV.

This beautiful land of abundant resources was not long to be left unsettled, once it had been discovered. There were French marines stationed at Kaskaskia as early as 1704.

In 1762 France ceded all her territory west of the Mississippi River to the Spanish, who took possession in 1768. By the same treaty the territory east of the river became British, and of course American after the American Revolution.

After France took over the western territory

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from Spain under the Treaty of San Ildefonso in 1801, President Jefferson sent ambassadors to France to buy the Isle of Orleans. Much to the surprise of the American ambassadors, Napoleon offered to sell the whole of Louisiana for \$15,000,000. This purchase was made, being the largest land transaction in history. At the astounding price of two cents an acre, the United States secured all or part of eleven states.

The three-flag ceremony transferring Upper Louisiana from Spain to France to the United States was held in St. Louis with DeLassus representing Spain and Captain Amos Stoddard representing both France and the United States.

Long before the area in the vicinity of Sikeston and Scott County was settled the Indians had discovered the possibilities of Big Prairie, where Sikeston now stands. It was a delightful spot interspersed with beautiful groves resembling small islands in a lake.

During the year 1789 a road known as El Camino Real, "The King's Highway," was marked out on orders of the King of Spain. It had been an old buffalo and Indian trail, and it was along this road that settlements were most numerous, at least in the New Madrid District.

In early days eastern Missouri was divided into five districts: New Madrid, Cape Girardeau, Ste. Genevieve, St. Louis, and St. Charles. The districts continued after the Louisiana Purchase was completed until the Territory of Missouri was organized by Congress on June 4, 1812. This territory had a governing Council of nine

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members and a House of thirteen members. Joseph Hunter was appointed a member of the first Council by President James Madison. The districts were then renamed counties until the state was admitted into the union of August 10, 1821, at which time the counties were reorganized.

The New Madrid Earthquakes occurred from December 16, 1811 to February 7, 1812; the worst in the written history of the world. Nearly 2,000 quakes were registered. At that time all the inhabitants of New Madrid moved inland, where most of them made permanent settlements.

One of the earliest settlers in Big Prairie was Edward Robertson, a trader and merchant, who, with his son-in-law, Moses Hurley, moved from the Cape Girardeau District about 1789 and settled near where Sikeston is located.

Most of the settlers, about 1805 just after the Louisiana Purchase, were from Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Among those from Kentucky were the families of Samuel Phillips, Stephen Ross, Isaac Ogden, John Shields Senior, Moses Shelby, Hartwell Baldwin, Edward N. Matthews, and Joseph Hunter. The Needham Sikes family came from North Carolina to Tennessee, thence to Missouri.

Perhaps the most distinguished and influential family in this period was the Joseph Hunter family. During the Revolutionary War Mr. Hunter had served under General George Rogers Clark in the conquest of the Northwest. There is evidence that as early as 1781, when Fort Jefferson just below the present Wickliffe in

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Kentucky, was besieged by the Chickasaw Indians, Joseph Hunter, crossing the river in the night, hunted and killed buffalo in what was known as Prairie Carlos, later Matthews Prairie, which is near where Charleston is located. The Men carried the meat across the river, thus supplying the starving garrison.

When Joseph Hunter came to Louisiana Territory he settled in New Madrid on a grant purchased from Joseph LaPlante in 1805. He resided there until the earthquakes of 1811 and 1812, when he removed to Big Prairie and settled on what is now the Lee Hunter Farm. He continued to live there until his death in December 1823. He is buried in the Hunter Family Cemetery on this farm.

On January 10, 1818, Joseph Hunter was appointed a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the District of New Madrid, Territory of Louisiana, by Frederick Bates, Secretary of the Territory of Louisiana.

Since there were hostile Indians in the District, the militia of the territory was enrolled for active service in 1812 to protect the settlers and the settlements. Joseph Hunter served as Major of the Second Battalion of the Fifth Regiment under Lieutenant Colonel John E. Hartt from New Madrid, commanding.

There were Delaware and Shawnee tribes in this area. Joseph Hunter IV of New Madrid, who was born March 10, 1823, told of seeing Indians picking cotton on the Mark H. Stallcup farm, near where Sikeston is now located.

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After the disastrous earthquakes the seat of justice for the New Madrid District was removed to Winchester, the first town in the neighborhood of Sikeston. It was located about where the South Wye now is, and was named for Colonel Henderson Winchester who lived in the vicinity. Lots were sold to Daniel Sparks, Samuel Phillips, Edward N. Matthews, Stephen Ross, Thomas Phillips, John Shields Senior, and Moses Shelby. A store was opened by Thomas Bartlett, and a tavern by Hartwell Baldwin. Later David Hunter, Mark Hardin Stallcup, and Christopher Houts were engaged in business at this place. When Missouri was admitted to the union and the counties organized, the seat of justice was removed to New Madrid, and Winchester speedily went down.

Mark Hardin Stallcup, who had served in the War of 1812, came to Winchester from near Springfield, Kentucky, soon after the war and engaged in business. In 1817 he married Hannah Hunter, daughter of Joseph Hunter and it is interesting to note that he was the man who once owned the whole site of the present town of Sikeston, having bought the land from Michael F. and Luceal Taylor, his wife, on December 11, 1844. At his death, December 11, 1848, the property went to his three children: Catherine, Lydia, and James. Catherine married first Andrew Myers, January 9, 1840. He lived about one year. She then married John Sikes, January 14, 1844. Mr. Sikes died in 1847 and much later in life she married Judge Noah Handy of Charles-

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ton, Missouri. James Stallcup and Lydia Stallcup Brown, the other heirs to this property, which contained the original town of Sikeston, sold their interests to John and Catherine Sikes on December 14, 1859.

On June 9, 1853, a meeting of the citizens of Charleston was held at the courthouse to take action to secure a railroad. Judge Noah Handy was chosen chairman, and John C. Thomas secretary. After many trials and tribulations a survey in 1856 was run from Bird's Point. In 1857 work of construction was begun. During the summer contracts were let for the grading of the road from Bird's Point to Charleston and on October 1, 1857, the contractor, Colonel H. J. Deal threw the first shovel of dirt. The work was pushed forward as rapidly as circumstances would permit and on April 1, 1859, the first train drawn by the locomotive "Sol G. Kitchen" entered Charleston. The formal opening of the road did not take place until July fourth, when a grand celebration was held. As Abraham Hunter had sold stock in the railroad, he rode into town on the train and made the main speech of the day. The railroad had another locomotive, the "Abraham Hunter," named after him. the work of construction continued and the road reached Sikeston in 1860.

This road was called the Cairo and Fulton (Arkansas). The War between the States interrupted construction soon after. It was not extended on to Poplar Bluff until about 1872.

During the Civil War the government took

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over the railroad, and much of the rolling stock was removed or destroyed. There was a turntable just north of the present South Grade School until the fall of 1866. The railroad passed into the hands of the State of Missouri by a sale under lien and on January 7, 1867, it was sold to McKay and Company for \$350,000. The company immediately transferred it to Thomas Allen, president of the Iron Mountain Railroad. It was extended to Poplar Bluff and known as The Cairo, Arkansas and Texas Railroad until 1874, when it was consolidated with the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad, and was known as the Cairo Branch of that system. The people generally spoke of it as the "CAT" railroad from the initials of Cairo, Arkansas, and Texas. There are people who say that the railroad made Sikeston; others in the community argue that the growth is due to local industry. Nevertheless, all agree that whether or not the railroad "made the town" it did give it a mighty boost in the beginning.

John Sikes had a store where the First Baptist Church now is located. He stated in a land title: "I, John Sikes, am going to start me a town and I am going to call it the Town of Sikeston." The original plat of the town is a matter of record in the county seat.

John Sikes was the son of Needham and Mary Shields Sikes, previously mentioned, who

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lived south of Sikeston across from the present Fairview School. John Sikes and Catherine Stallcup Sikes had one son, Needham Sikes II. They lived directly across the road from the store, on their farm which extended to the railroad. It stood back from the road quite a bit.

During the War between the States there were turbulent times throughout this area. There was a band of outlaws, called guerillas, that roamed the country and made life miserable for the settlers. During 1864 they came to the Sikes' store and tried to make Mr. Sikes tell them where the family money and jewelry were buried. He refused, so they hanged him to a big oak tree in front of the store. Mrs. Sikes, who saw the whole thing, took one hundred dollars hidden in a sack of cotton on the porch and sent it over to them by a Negro girl. Mr. Sikes had turned quite black in the face, but they cut him down and he recovered. The Confederate and Federal soldiers both were after the guerillas, but somehow were never able to catch them.

About a week later the Sikes' house was burned in the night, the family being unaware of it until the structure was falling in. Mr. Frank Boyce, a nephew of Mr. Sikes, ran in and picked up a big featherbed. When he laid it down on the ground, two little girls rolled out of it. One of them was the mother of this writer, Mary Catherine "Kate" Brown, and the other Ella May Brown, her sister. Their mother, Lydia Stallcup Brown, Mrs. Sikes' sister, having died in 1863, Mrs. Sikes had taken the two little girls

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to raise. (My mother told me many times about this fire, and said about the first thing she could remember was watching that house burn. She was four years old. A.C.)

Conditions continued so unsettled throughout the area that Mr. and Mrs. Sikes went to St. Louis and stayed until the war was over.

After Mr. and Mrs. Sikes returned to Sikeston, he was in business with William Hughes, near where the Buckner-Ragsdale Store is. He and Mrs. Sikes were then living near where the Malone Theatre is located.

In 1867 a man named William Maulsby came in from the country, got drunk, and created a disturbance. Mr. Sikes, knowing him well, took him out to his horse which was tied to a hitch. rack in what is now Legion Park, handed him his shotgun, and advised him to go home. As Mr. Sikes turned to go back into the store Mr. Maulsby shot him in the back. The gun was loaded with buckshot. Mr. Sikes lived about three days.

Mr. Maulsby was arrested and put in jail at Benton. The next morning he was gone. The jailer said that he had climbed out the flue hole. He was never seen around here again. It was once reported that he had been seen in Texas.

The country north and south of Sikeston, along the Sikeston Ridge, was pretty well settled by this time. Families living to the south were Sikes, Emory, Edmondson, Stallcup, Matthews, Moore, and others. North of town were the Calvin Greer, Casper Hinkle, Ben F. Hunter, Levi

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D. Chaney, James McMullin, Dr. W. S. Lennox, Abraham Hunter, William Marshall, and Samuel Marshall families.

The first house in the town was built by Samuel Keith on the present corner of Malone and King's Highway where the Shell Service Station is now located. Here he operated a shoe repair shop.

In 1874 the prominent men of the town, wishing to incorporate, secured the legal advice of Mr. Levi S. Green, an attorney living in Benton. The county seat at that time was in Commerce. On April 5, 1874, an election was held. The judges were William Boutwell, Needham Sikes II, and William Ravenscraft. The men voting were J. L. Shumate, C. H. Harris, Jason Chaney, Ed Coleman, E. H. Randol, Needham Sikes, R. S. Coleman, William Ravenscraft, William Boutwell, Henry Plotz, W. J. Wilson, John Ebert, James Shelby, Charles Ebert, William Roberts, John Tucker, Ed Allen, Samuel Keith, and W. C. Puckett.

Five trustees were elected: Ed Coleman, Joseph O. Davis, J. B. Randol, R. J. Tucker, and R. G. Applegate. They were sworn in by John McBride, Justice of the Peace, August 17, 1874, with Ed Coleman, chairman, and R. G. Applegate, town clerk (from R. G. Applegate's private papers).

Another election was held April 6, 1875, when

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the following trustees were elected: Edward H. Coleman, Reese G. Applegate, William Jasper Wilson, Reuben S. Coleman, and Joseph B. Randol. Judges were: William Boutwell, Needham Sikes II, and William Ravenscraft. The first constable was William Boutwell, succeeded by James H. Shelby and later by C. Nations. Joseph O. Davis was treasurer. According to the law it was necessary, because the population was two hundred fifty, to incorporate as a town. In order to incorporate as a city and have a Mayor and Marshall, the required population was twenty-five hundred.

About the first order of business of the new Town Council was consideration of thirteen applications for licenses to operate "dram" shops. Fines of one dollar each were assessed against four prominent citizens for "carrying a pistol." The new trustees immediately entered upon their duties and under their direction the town continued to grow and prosper.

Sikeston merchants in 1875 and 1876, when the population was two hundred fifty, were: W. A. Coffey, proprietor of the Star Saloon; J. O. Davis, fancy groceries; Charles Ebert, bakery, grocery, and restaurant; H. C. Edwards, an attorney, Justice of the Peace, and collector; A. Friedenbergh, general merchandise; O. E. Kendall, druggist; H. Plotz, boot and shoe maker; W. C. Puckett, hotel proprietor; J. L. Shumate, general merchandise; Henry A. Smith and R. J. Tucker, hotel proprietor (from L. A. Wilson

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History and Directory for Southeast Missouri
and Southern Illinois. Cape Girardeau, Mo.,
1875-76)

One of the earliest physicians in this area was Dr. John L. Shumate, who was graduated from the Medical School of St. Louis University in 1885 and came to Sikeston soon after. He practiced his profession, winning new friends, and accumulating enough property to spend his last days in ease and comfort. In 1866 he married Mrs. Lucinda Magee, who lived three miles south of Sikeston and to them five children were born.

Another prominent physician was Dr. O. W. Kendall who was born near Martin, Tennessee, and served under General Nathan Bedford Forrest during the War between the States. After being mustered out of service he returned to Tennessee and studied medicine at Vanderbilt Medical School. Soon after finishing he came to Southeast Missouri and practiced his profession at Ogden, a settlement about ten miles below Sikeston. He came to Sikeston July 6, 1872. On August 13, 1867, he married Lucada Moore. They had one son, Dr. Luther Kendall. Mrs. O. E. Kendall died in 1876 and in 1877 Dr. Kendall married Susan Jane Chaney. Dr. Kendall, besides practicing medicine, was in the grain business and on March 30, 1878, he purchased the Jasper Trotter farm which laid between Trotter Street and Murray Lane on the west side of King's Highway. He was a very charitable man, and was never known to charge a widow or an

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orphan. He never refused to make a call, going horseback most of the time. Gladys Kendall (Mrs. James S. Kevil) is the only surviving child.

As previously stated Dr. O. E. Kendall was in the drug business in Sikeston in 1875-1876. In 1876 when Benjamin F. Chaney returned from school at Poughkeepsie, New York, he and Needham Sikes II bought Dr. Kendall out and operated the drug store for two years, until 1878, when Mr. Chaney bought Mr. Sikes out. The drug store was located on the site of the present James Drug Store and faced the west. Mr. Chaney kept fine cigars, candy, and had a soft drink counter where milk shakes were served. When he was postmaster in 1885-1889, the post office was located in the Chaney Drug Store, and Mr. Rube Coleman, deputy postmaster, looked after it.

Mr. Chaney continued operating the store until about 1890. He then engaged in farming the land he and his wife owned, which was south of Helen Avenue and east of King's Highway.

In February, 1888, J. A. Hess came to Sikeston from New Madrid where he had been employed as druggist in Dr. Hatcher's Drug Store, to take charge of the drug store he and his brother-in-law, Otto Kochtitzky, had purchased from Mr. E. J. Malone. The new store was known as the O. K. Drug Store. The business was located on Front Street, and when the Kendall Building was erected it moved into the portion of it where the People's Drug Store is now located. Mr. Hess established an ice cream parlor in the store,

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and sold ice cream and phosphate drinks.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union established a library which was housed in the drugstore. This was the first free public library in Sikeston.

In 1907 Mr. Jamar of Bloomfield established a Kodak Shop in the store, providing a two-fold service for the community--developing films and being on hand to take pictures of all civic gatherings and activities.

In the early 1890s Mr. Kochtitzky sold his interest to William S. Smith of Sikeston who in 1920 sold to Mr. Hess. In 1929, having been in business in Sikeston for more than forty-one years, Mr. Hess retired, selling the store to Paul Galloway.

Although the years 1867-1880 marked a period of slow recovery from poverty occasioned by the War between the States and the following depression, Sikestonians had certain assets which they handed on to their heirs. These articles all possessed much value; this was evident in their being singled out for special mention. Inheritances often saved a family from extreme poverty. The land was the most treasured of all, but later land speculators cheated some of them out of that.

In the 1870s there were two cotton gins in Sikeston, one where the Dr. Mayfield home stands, owned by Henry A. Smith and R. G. Applegate; the other on the lot where Mrs. E. C. Matthews lives and owned by C. D. Matthews. An unusual thing happened; the gin owned by

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Smith and Applegate, which was operated by horse power, burned, while the other, operated by steam power with all its fire hazard, did not.

Sikeston now has three cotton gins, one cotton oil mill, and one cotton compress.

The Matthews family of Sikeston is descended from Edward Matthews, who, with his sons, settled about 1800 in what was then known as Prairie Carlos, but later called Matthews Prairie, near where Charleston is located. Edward N. later came to Big Prairie; he is listed as owning lots in Winchester. He married Elvira Davis whose family lived in the vicinity. They had two sons, Felix Edward and Charles Davis. The farm home was near where the town of Matthews is located.

Charles Davis, who was born January 11, 1843, came to Sikeston to live in 1867. He purchased an interest in the business of Samuel Stringer and Edward H. Coleman. At the end of the first year he bought out his partners, and continued the business himself. He began investing in farmlands very early, when land was selling at low prices, and accumulated a vast amount of valuable property.

Mr. C. D. Matthews married three times. First, Rebecca Greer. A daughter born to this marriage died in infancy, as did the mother. He later married Elizabeth Greer, and children by this marriage were Charles Davis Junior and Edward Calvin. After his second wife died, he married Mrs. Betty McMullin Sikes, widow of

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William Sikes Junior. A son, Joseph L. , was born to this marriage. Mr. Matthews died in Sikeston, October 17, 1917, at the age of seventy-four.

In the 1880s many fine families moved from the farms to town. Among them F. M. and Jennie Greer Sikes, Mark H. and Sue Gregory Stallcup, Mrs. Laura Sikes Smith, Judge Calvin and Fannie Turner Greer, Ben F. and Nancy Bird Hunter, and others. These families built pretentious homes and did much to add to the social life of the town.

Mr. Reece G. Applegate had moved to Sikeston from Price's Landing in 1873, and Samuel Tanner moved here from New Hamburg in 1871.

Calvin Greer, son of Green Berry Greer, was born in Missouri about 1833. He located in Richland Township, just north of Sikeston. There he farmed and made a comfortable living, not only for his own family but also for some of the children of his father's second marriage. He married Frances Turner about 1852. Children were the twins Jenny and Rebecca, Elizabeth, John, and Green Berry. Mr. Greer served many years as a Judge of the Scott County Court.

Laura Sikes (Mrs. Henry A. Smith) was one of the leading pioneer women in this district. She was the daughter of William Sikes, brother of John Sikes, and Lydia Stallcup Sikes, pioneers of this district. She was active in the work of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and helped to organize the first Ladies Aid of that church. She married Henry Anderson Smith,

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October 18, 1868. Mr. Smith came to this area from Kentucky after the War between the States and was one of the leading merchants and farmers here.

The children of this marriage were: William Strother, Cora Lee (Mrs. E. P. Crowe), Frank Hardin, Handy Linn, Annie Laurie, who died at the age of one year, and Henry "Harry" Anderson Junior. Mr. Smith died November 2, 1883, and left his widow a big farm to manage and five children to raise--which she did very successfully.

Francis Marion and Jennie Greer Sikes were another influential and prominent couple. They moved to town in 1886 and erected a beautiful home on North King's Highway. They were active in the work of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and Mrs. Sikes, like Mrs. Smith, helped to organize the first Ladies Aid.

Reece G. Applegate was responsible probably more than any other man for the betterment of the community. He was one of the trustees and on the Building Committee of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the first church built here. Mrs. Handy deeded the lot for the church on June 20, 1879. The other two trustees were Daniel H. Leedy and John L. Shumate.

Mr. Applegate married Miss Amelia Ranney and there were four children who lived to adulthood: Reese, Lillian (Mrs. Handy L. Smith) Ranney O., and S. Wallace.

Mr. Samuel Tanner moved to Sikeston in 1871 and lived at 504 Tanner Street. He had three

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sons and a daughter by this first marriage: John Louis, Charley, William, and Maggie. After the death of his wife he married a widow, Mrs. Frances Applegate Moore, who was the mother of Maggie (Mrs. Robert Lillard), Alice (Mrs. G. B. Greer), and Annie (Mrs. Joseph Winchester). Mr. Tanner and his second wife had three sons: Frank, Ernest, and Murray Quinn. Mr. Tanner was very industrious and through the years acquired valuable real estate, as did his sons. They have many descendants.

Mark Hardin Stallcup II, who married Sue Gregory, was one of the most prominent men in this community and was quite wealthy. He and Mrs. Stallcup contributed much to the business and social life of the town. They were a handsome couple and Mrs. Stallcup is said to have been the most beautiful woman who ever lived in Sikeston. They lived at 226 Tanner Street, having built the home Mr. and Mrs. Lee Bowman live in. There were two sons: James Alfred and Lynn Mark. Both sons attended the local schools, then Vanderbilt University. James continued the study of law at the Columbia Law School in Washington, D. C. After graduation he located in Hot Springs, Arkansas. He married Miss Dorothy Waters of Hot Springs. Lynn married Miss Frances Lawrence of Sikeston.

Mr. Ben F. Hunter married twice. First, Mary Eliza Bird. There was one son, John Abraham, who died at the age of thirteen. After his wife's death, he married her sister, Nancy Emily. They had five children: Mary Bird (Mrs.

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Handy Moore), Clara Catherine (Mrs. Robert Whitesell), Stephen Ben, Lucy Nancy (Mrs. James L. Byrd), and Sallie (Mrs. Edward J. Hayward).

Mr. Hunter was one of the largest landowners in the county and lived on one of his farms about three miles north of town. The home burned in 1888, after which he built a brick house in the north part of town. This is the house on North King's Highway that Miss Mayme Marshall lives in now. Mr. Hunter died January 10, 1895.

Mr. A. J. Matthews was another influential citizen of Sikeston in the early days. He entered the mercantile business when about twenty-four years old and by his own pluck and initiative attained a high place in the financial and business world. He bought swampland at a cheap price, and as it developed he became the owner of about 18,000 acres of good farm land. He was associated with the Scott County Milling Company at one time, but before that he bought and sold grain on his own. He was married to Miss Kate Emory and five children were born to them: Pearl (Mrs. Frank Rice), Mabel (Mrs. Lewis D. Baker), Mary (Mrs. Richard Payne), Emory, and Lyman.

Mr. E. J. Malone was born in Marshall County, Tennessee, December 29, 1852. He moved to Pulaski and attended a subscription school; later Giles College. He began study of medicine in 1873 under Dr. J. C. Roberts of Pulaski, Tennessee, at that time one of the best known physicians and surgeons. Mr. Ma-

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lone moved to Illinois and practiced medicine for a while, then embarked in the manufacturing business. In 1877 he moved to Morehouse, Missouri, and there founded one of the largest manufacturing industries in the south part of the state. In 1889 he sold his plant to the Himmelberger Company who continued the business.

About 1884 Mr. Malone moved to Sikeston and built his mansion in 1889. He served as Mayor five terms: 1906-1908, 1910-1912, 1912-1914, 1916-1918, 1918-1919. In 1913, while Dr. Malone was Mayor, Wilson Park was purchased by the city from the W. J. Wilson heirs for \$4,500. Dr. Malone contributed \$1,125 of this amount, so the park was named Malone Park. The bandstand was built in 1912 at a cost of \$1,200. Dr. Malone and his brother-in-law, Mr. Van Ausdale, were in the grocery business, and also the drug business, in the 1880s.

Senator John E. Marshall, capitalist, landowner, and active man of varied business interests, was born about four miles north of town March 21, 1855. He was the eldest of the eight children of Samuel and Martha A. Turner Marshall. He attended country schools and Charleston Academy. When he reached his majority in 1876 his father gave him one hundred acres of land adjoining the home farm. Here he lived as a bachelor for nearly three years. On October 10, 1878, he married Miss Mary Lynn McMullin, the daughter of James and Aspiza Vaughan McMullin. Mr. Marshall's active farming operations were discontinued in 1888, when he start-

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ed in the mercantile business with his brother, Ben F. at Blodgett, Missouri, the firm being Marshall Brothers. After six or seven years this partnership was dissolved by mutual consent, and the firm of Marshall-McMullin Mercantile was organized in Sikeston. Mr. Charles F. McMullin being his partner. Some two years later Mr. H. F. Emory was taken into the business and the firm called the Marshall-Emory-McMullin Company.

Four years later the Sikeston Mercantile Company was incorporated, and Mr. Marshall became treasurer. He had, in the meantime, organized the Stubb-Marshall Mercantile Company of Blodgett, Missouri, of which he was president. He was also vice-president of the Sikes-McMullin Grain Company, a director of both the Citizen's Bank and the People's Bank. He was twice County Judge of Scott County, and was elected to the State Senate in 1896. He was reelected in 1900, and served as chairman of the Committee on Swamplands. It was largely under his supervision that our drainage laws were enacted.

In 1900 Mr. Marshall purchased the beautiful home built by Mr. Ben F. Hunter and moved to town that year.

The first sand-clay road in Southeast Missouri was built by George Washington Steele, who was New Madrid County Surveyor. It spanned a stretch of one and one-quarter miles of clay on King's Highway seven miles north of New Madrid, between his farm and town. It was

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always impassable after the winter rains set in. He spread about three inches of sand over the surface, and by prompt maintenance wherever needed for a year developed a very satisfactory road. Travel in those days was by horseback or a wagon drawn by two mules; in the logging camps teams of oxen were often used. A lot of walking was done also.



SIKESTON STREET SCENE ABOUT 1910

Chapter Two

ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS

Southeast Missouri Drainage

On December 1, 1885 Mr. C. L. Luce contracted to dredge and straighten the channel of Little River from the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad to the south line of New Madrid County for the purpose of draining the swamplands in the vicinity of Little River. The consideration was fourteen cents per cubic yard of excavation, for which he agreed to accept swamplands of the county, including the lands of the railroad franchise and other designated lands, at the price of one dollar twenty-five cents an acre in full payment therefor. The proposition was entirely satisfactory to the

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County Court and the leading citizens of the county, as well as to Mr. Luce.

Mr. Otto Kochtitzky was engaged, by both parties to this contract, at a salary of one hundred dollars per month and expenses. He promptly began the surveys. A dredge was placed in operation in the year 1886 and continued working under Mr. Kochtitzky's direction until June 1889 when it was destroyed by fire.

Mr. Luce died September 15, 1886. His numerous enterprises were carried on with borrowed capital and his death made it necessary to place his property in the hands of a receiver, which fact affected the operation of this important venture. In order to continue the dredging Mr. Kochtitzky accomplished the sale of timber on two thousand acres of the best portion of his timber tract to Himmelberger and Company, sawmill operators at Buffington, Missouri, for the price of four dollars per acre.

Ten years later the work of dredging was resumed. It was finished in 1899.

Other county drainage districts were soon formed following this demonstration, but all were small in size and in results.

Preliminary work for draining half a million acres in the Little River Valley was begun in 1903 by John H. Himmelberger, president of the Himmelberger-Harrison Lumber Company, of Morehouse, with Otto Kochtitzky as civil en-

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gineer. Their efforts resulted in the formation of the Little River Drainage District at a meeting held in Morehouse on December 30, 1907, at which meeting five governing supervisors were chosen: John H. Himmelberger, president; A. J. Matthews, Sikeston, secretary-treasurer; Alfred L. Harty, Bloomfield; Charles Henderson, Jackson; S. P. Reynolds, Caruthersville. Otto Kochtitzky was named chief engineer and W. A. O'Brien and U. S. Frissell assistant engineers.

This great system included plans whereby the waters of rivers draining eleven hundred square miles of hill country would be diverted into the Mississippi River before reaching the reclaimed lands. This was a tremendous financial undertaking, but the bonded indebtedness was paid off several years ago.

There are many other drainage districts, some of them organized by authority of the county courts and some by authority of the circuit courts.

These are the result of the dream of the man who did more for the material development of Southeast Missouri than any other man. Had it not been for Otto Kochtitzky's belief in the value of swamp drainage, conditions might not be as prosperous and progressive as they are today.

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Early Business

About January, 1890, Sikeston suffered a disastrous fire which swept from Front Street from about Graber's Store to the east end of blocks six and seven, where the James Drug Store now stands. The cause of the fire is unknown. One Man, who was sleeping in the back of one of the stores, lost his life. The buildings were quickly replaced by buildings much more substantial, most of them being brick.

Where the National Gas Company has its business today was a store called the Emory-Sikes Mercantile Company. It was owned by Mr. H. F. Emory and F. M. Sikes. This was in the 1890s and Miss Margaret "Maggie" Moore (Mrs. Robert Lillard) and Miss Pet Kirby (Mrs. Garland Lewis) ran the millinery department; Mr. James "Uncle Jimmy" Rodgers the grocery department; Mr. C. H. Harris the hardware section; and Mr. Emory the dry goods department. Business was thriving during these years, because more people were constantly moving here.

One of the merchants was Mr. George P. McCoy, whose store was located where the J. C. Penney Store is now located. Mr. McCoy took his son, Daniel, into the business, the firm being called G. P. McCoy and Son. In 1889 C. C. Pinnell came to Sikeston and worked for Mr.

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McCoy until 1895, when he bought a third interest in the business, after which it was called McCoy and Pinnell. In 1899 Mr. McCoy sold his interest to Mr. U. G. Holley, David Duckworth, and R. G. Applegate, who incorporated the business for ten thousand dollars. The store was moved to the lot Graber's Store now occupies, and was called the Pinnell Store Company.

In 1888 there was a grist mill in town operated by a Mr. Schaefer. In 1892 Mr. G. B. Greer and Mr. C. D. Matthews formed a company and built a flour mill, which was in the east part of town. Mr. U. G. Holley was engineer and Tommy Meyer the miller. They named the flour "Juanita" for Mr. Greer's daughter who later married F. W. VanHorne. Mr. Greer was office manager and salesman. Mr. W. C. Bowman moved to Sikeston in 1893 and purchased an interest in this mill, known as the G. B. Greer Company. In June, 1896, the company was incorporated, and the name changed to the Greer-Bowman Milling Company, with G. B. Greer, Charles D. Matthews, U. G. Holley, and W. C. Bowman as stockholders. In 1898 John D. Ebert acquired an interest in the company and became an officer and director. In 1899 Mr. Bowman sold his interest and acquired a flour mill at Dexter, Missouri, which was incorporated as the Dexter Milling Company. In 1901 the name of the Greer-Bowman Milling Company was changed to Greer-Ebert Milling Company. In 1902 C. D. Matthews and W. C. Bowman organized the Bowman-Matthews Mil-

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ling Company and built the plant in the west part of town called Mill A.

At the same time the Greer-Ebert Company built a plant at Oran, Missouri. In 1904 the Greer-Ebert Milling Company and the Bowman-Matthews Company were consolidated, and the name changed to the Scott County Milling Company. In 1907 the Scott County Milling Company acquired the Dexter Milling Company of Dexter.

The Scott County Milling Company has survived two wars, a depression, and numerous drouths, and in 1951 completed its newest addition--two modern steel and concrete warehouses for storing Gristo Feeds manufactured in the new ultra-modern feed plant completed in October 1954.

The Farmer's Supply Company, wholesale and retail, with "Supplies for all Mankind," the most important commercial establishment of its kind in Southeast Missouri, was established by its owners June 24, 1901. It was located where the J. C. Penney Company is now located and employed fifty people. The firm carried dry goods, gent's furnishings, groceries, hardware, furniture, stoves, builder's supplies, agricultural machines of every description, seeds and feeds, ladies' furnishings and ready to wear, carpets, upholstery, and a complete undertaking department. In short, the Farmer's Supply Company could supply a person's needs from the cradle to the last earthly resting place. The company was owned by C. D. Matthews, with C. D. Matthews Junior as manager and E.

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C. Matthews as assistant manager.

In 1906 the Sikeston Concrete, Tile and Construction Company was organized. Mr. John A. Young was the manager, J. N. Chaney the secretary-treasurer, and J. W. Schroff in charge of construction. The company dealt in all kinds of building materials, and erected some of the finest residences and stores in Sikeston. Among these was the McCoy-Tanner Building.

The water works system was built the same time as the sewer system, 1904.

In 1901 surveyors came into Sikeston to survey for the "Frisco" railroad. In the fall of 1903 the first track laying train entered town with Jr. Moseley, engineer; Charles Berry, fireman; and Jack Sheridan, conductor. By 1904 passenger trains were running regularly from St. Louis to Memphis. This railroad contributed greatly to the expansion of industrial and agricultural business in the district.

The first newspaper in Sikeston was The Sikeston Star published by J. F. Mitchim in 1884. He was succeeded by W. S. Mitchim.

The first moving picture theatre was located on the southwest corner of Front and Scott Streets. It was started in 1906 by C. A. Russell, who was the constable of Richland Township at the time. It was called "The Electric Dome."

On April 17, 1914, W. B. Malone, owner and manager of the "Idle Hour" moving picture theatre, operated it where the Coca-Cola plant is now.

In 1914 the Malone Theatre was erected and

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The Holley-Matthews Manufacturing Company was incorporated under state laws, February 14, 1905, and operated successfully until September 19, 1907, when it was completely destroyed by fire. Nothing daunted, however, the company had the plant rebuilt within sixty days. It was the largest plant of its kind in this section. The officers of the company were: U. G. Holley, president; G. M. Cohoon, first vice-president; E. C. Matthews, second vice-president; C. E. Matthews Junior, treasurer; W. H. Barnes, secretary; R. H. Johnson, sales manager; F. M. Ducker, traffic manager; and Ranney G. Applegate, accountant. The company also owned a mill at Greenville, Mississippi, and the output of both mills was fifteen hundred carloads per annum. The Sikeston mill employed two hundred twenty-five men.

The Alfalfa Dairy, owned and operated by Lewis D. Baker, was one of the best sanitary dairies in the whole country. It was operated by electric power procured from the Sikeston Ice, Light and Power Company. Fifty cows were milked twice daily. The dairy was purchased by Mr. Baker in 1908. It was located on the farm where Green Meadows is at present, and Mr. Baker lived in the house Mr. Paul Buchmueller now owns and lives in. Mr. Baker was twice married; first to Miss Lou Emory, by whom he had one son, Louis Emory Baker. After Mrs. Baker's death he married Miss Mabel Matthews. They had four children: James, Rebecca, Jack,

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and Allen.

The first bakery located in Sikeston was operated by Charles Ebert in 1875. He and his son, John D., moved to Sikeston in early days from Cape Girardeau.

Mr. Samuel Schorle and his brother, Fred, operated a bakery here, starting in 1904. They came to Sikeston from St. Louis, but were natives of Germany.

Ben J. Welter, a member of an old family here, very successfully owned and operated a bakery here in later years. Failing health caused Mr. Welter to retire several years ago. He married Miss Eva Carter.

The Sikes-McMullin Grain Company organized by Mr. F. M. Sikes and C. F. McMullin to handle their own grain on a partnership basis, in 1906. Owing to the growing importance of the business, the firm was reorganized and incorporated under the laws of Missouri. The officers were: F. M. Sikes, president; John E. Marshall, vice-president; Charles F. McMullin, secretary; and D. B. Kevil, manager. The business increased until in 1910 they shipped four hundred thousand bushels of corn and wheat, in addition to about ten thousand bushels of New Era stock peas.

The firm of Marshall-McMullin Mercantile was organized in Sikeston about 1894 by John E. Marshall and C. F. McMullin. Two years later Mr. H. F. Emory was taken into the business and the firm was called the Marshall-Emory-McMullin Company. Four years later it was

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incorporated as the Sikeston Mercantile Company with Mr. Marshall as treasurer. This business continued for many years.

C. H. Yanson moved to Sikeston in 1900, he being manager of the jewelry department of one of the city's leading stores. He held this position for about three years, then opened his own jewelry store. He kept a full line of jewelry, diamonds, watches, clocks, rings, pins, silverware, besides a fine assortment of fine china and cut glass. He was, until his eyesight failed, an expert in the repairing of watches and clocks. He still conducts his business, with the assistance of his son, Charles.

One of the earliest blacksmiths was Mr. George Henson, whose shop was in the lot south of the Dunn Hotel. The writer remembers Mr. Henson very well, as he looked after the family horse and the pony and buggy we children used.

In 1888 Mr. Forrest F. Young moved to Sikeston and worked as a blacksmith, then went into business for himself in 1897. He built wagons on order, as well as going general blacksmithing.

Livery stables were operated by Mr. T. A. Welman, who came to Sikeston from Kentucky in 1884. His vehicles and horses were first class, and he was personally a gentleman with whom it was a pleasure to do business.

Mr. Frank Shanks operated a first class livery stable. It was located about where the present telephone office is. His stable burned in a disastrous fire. Mr. Shanks was a highly re-

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spected gentleman and had a fine family.

There are many other men who were in business in the 1900s, but only a few can be mentioned as time and space will not permit a complete history. Among them were: J. F. Beggs, contractor; J. M. Ligon, insurance; I. D. Ramsey, proprietor of Sikeston Hotel; Joseph W. Myers, Germania Life Insurance Company, Police Judge and Justice of the Peace; L. T. Parish, fire insurance and automobile dealer; J. L. DeWitt, groceries; W. H. and R. F. Carter were in the general merchandising business in 1907; and A. E. Shankle was general agent for the Singer Sewing Machine Company.

The Sikeston Electric Laundry began operations in May 1908, with C. R. Hamilton and Albert Shields as owners and C. H. Harris as manager. The laundry employed local people and was very successful.

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Real Estate

In 1910 C. M. Smith Brothers and Company had listed for sale over 100,000 acres of fine improved lands. All the lands listed were of fine loam soil from five to ten feet deep and free of stone, and were within easy reach of the railroads. The Sikeston climate was unusually mild, the winters short, and crop season long. The officers of this real estate company were:

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J. E. Smith, general manager; W. A. White, assistant manager; J. F. Cox and W. P. Lindley, land representatives; E. J. Keith, traveling representative. After this company ceased doing business, Messrs. Cox, White, Lindley, and Keith formed the Hoosier Land Company and did a big business.

In 1910 Mr. C. F. Bruton was in the real estate business, also. He had moved to Sikeston from Centralia, Missiori, several years before, and was one of the main "boosters" for this "Modern Promised Land."

Hotels and Boarding Houses

The Sikeston history would not be complete without mentioning the Marshall Hotel, located where the Dunn Hotel is at present. In 1900 the Marshall Hotel was operated by Mrs. Laura Slack, and was a first class hotel. Later it burned and was rebuilt by J. W. and Clem Marshall. Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Cook were the proprietors of the new hotel until Mr. Cook's health failed. Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Arsdale then purchased it and operated it a number of years. It was considered one of the finest hotels between Memphis and St. Louis. Mr. and Mrs. Dunn then purchased the hotel and it is still a first class hostelry.

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After Mrs. Slack gave up the management of the hotel she opened a boarding house at home, which was located where the Planter's Bank is now. She was succeeded by Mrs. A. G. Skillman who was one of the most popular persons in town. All the young bachelors of the town boarded with her.

About 1900 there was a frame hotel on the lot where Tenkhoff's Pharmacy is now located that was called the Central Hotel. It was operated by a Mr. Clore.

Later the Green Tree Hotel was operated on the corner where the Kroger Store is located. The building was owned by Dr. E. J. Malone.

The first swimming pool in Sikeston was built by John N. Chaney in 1917 on his lot north of the Del Rey Hotel. It contained eighty-five dressing-rooms, and was called the Chaney Natatorium. N. J. Laubis was the architect. For many years this pool was a very popular place.

Another citizen who gave of his time and money to advance the cultural and social life of the community was Mr. J. W. Baker. He served as a member of the school board for about thirty years, part of the time as president.

Mr. Baker's father moved to Missouri from Tennessee in the early days and lived on the Joseph Hunter farm (now the Lee Hunter farm) ever since. Mr. Baker invested in land between Sikeston and Salcedo, and was one of the more prosperous farmers around here. He was a director in the Citizen's Bank, and also the People's Bank, and owned stock in the Scott County

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Milling Company.

He married Miss Eunice Green, the daughter of a Baptist minister who came from Tennessee in early days. Their son, Lewis D., took a prominent part in the community serving on the Building Committee of the present Methodist Church, which was built in 1911. He sang in the choir for years, and his sister, Jennie, was the organist, when services were held in the brick church where the Bank of Sikeston now stands. When the present Methodist Church was built in 1911 Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Baker contributed one thousand dollars to a fund to purchase a pipe organ. It was dedicated to the memory of Jennie Baker, their daughter, who had faithfully served as organist so many years.

Mr. A. A. Harrison was another citizen who contributed so much to the cultural and social life of the community. He served about thirty years as secretary of the school board, and three of his daughters, Cora, Kate, and Bell, were among our best teachers. Mr. Harrison was a Notary Public and also a Justice of the Peace, and did a lot of legal work for the citizens of the community. His grandson, A. A. Harrison, is a highly respected resident of Sikeston now.

William N. Stubblefield, a substantial farmer of this area came from Kentucky to Price's Landing, Missouri, in 1854 with his parents. He first married Mrs. Mary Matthews and had two sons, William H. Junior and John B. After the death of his wife, he married Miss Jennie Mar-

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shall, daughter of William Marshall, a pioneer of this community. There were three daughters by this marriage: Mildred (Mrs. J. E. Harper), Louise (Mrs. H. L. Groves), and Lucille.

Other medical doctors not previously mentioned, who practiced in the Sikeston area were:

Dr. W. S. Lennox, who lived in early days one mile east of McMullin. The Lennox School was named for him. His son, Ben Lennox, later practiced in Sikeston and married Sarah Emory.

Dr. Ben Wyatt came to Sikeston in the early 1880s from Kentucky. He was a brother of Mrs. Needham Sikes II, and Mrs. Henry Machen. He married India Carpenter.

Among the others who came later was Dr. J. A. Milem, who came to Sikeston April 2, 1896, immediately after graduating from the Medical School in Louisville, Kentucky. He was a native of Lee County, Virginia. After coming to Sikeston, he married Miss Mollie Beattie of Commerce who was teaching here.

Dr. T. V. Miller of Millersville, Missouri, after completing his medical education at Barnes Medical College in St. Louis in 1904, came to Sikeston. Dr. Miller married Miss Lillie Shanks.

Dr. P. M. Malcolm, after attending the University of Tennessee in 1888, studied at Johns Hopkins University of Baltimore in 1890-91. In 1892 he reentered the University of Tennessee and was graduated. In 1896 he was graduated from the Polytechnic Clinic of New York. He first practiced in Buchanan, Tennessee; then

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moved to Sikeston in June 1900. He was elected Mayor of Sikeston in 1908, and served two years. In 1890 Dr. Malcolm married Miss Martha Jane Perry of Buchanan, Tennessee. Dr. Malcolm must have thought Sikeston a wild place. When the westbound "CAT" train carrying him and his family pulled into the station here a duel was being fought on the platform by two draymen who were business rivals. They were Nat Ingram and Bill Golightly. The men fired simultaneously and both died instantly. That was in June 1900.

Dr. V. D. Hunter, osteopath, came to Sikeston from McDaniels, Kentucky, in December 1908. He, in addition to being successful professionally, was very popular socially. December 13, 1899, he married Miss Daisy Skillman of Harrisburg, Kentucky.

Dentists in Sikeston about 1899 were Dr. Porter Kendall and Dr. Handy Linn Smith. Both attended Washington University and graduated from the Missouri Dental College, and practiced in Sikeston. Dr. Kendall never married, but Dr. Smith married Miss Lillian Applegate. Both were very successful in their profession.

Mr. A. A. Ebert was one of the well known and popular young men in Sikeston. He was born in 1879 and attended schools in Cape Girardeau and St. Louis. He had one of the finest livestock farms in Southeast Missouri, and was the founder and president of the Sikeston Horse Show, which was one of the best in the state. In 1910 he promoted the Tri-County Fair, which

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was held annually where Sunset Addition is now located. This fair, the biggest event in Southeast Missouri, was discontinued several years later because of World War I.

Banks

The Bank of Sikeston was established as a private bank by Mr. C. D. Matthews about August 15, 1887. It was operated as such until February 17, 1916, when it was incorporated and granted a charter under the laws of Missouri.

The bank was first located at the corner of Front and New Madrid Streets where the J. C. Penney Store is now located. As the bank grew it moved to a larger building erected for in in 1909, where the Norton Shoe Store is located. It remained in this building for twenty-five years. In September, 1943, the present Bank of Sikeston building was completed, and the bank moved to the location which it now occupies. The first president of the Bank of Sikeston was its founder, C. E. Matthews. At his death on October 17, 1917, C. D. Matthews Junior became its president and continued in that capacity until his death June 23, 1937. Since that date Joseph L. Matthews has held the position. The bank's initial capital of \$20,000 in 1887 has been increased over the years to its

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present \$250,000, plus a surplus of \$300,000. Deposits have grown from its modest beginning to \$13,000,000.53 at the close of business December 31, 1959.

The Citizen's Bank of Sikeston was chartered in 1895 with a capital of \$30,000. S. B. Hunter was the first president and Alfred Moore was cashier. Directors were: Reese G. Applegate, Mark H. Stallcup, John E. Marshall, and Stephen B. Hunter. The building which Schorle Brothers Bakery occupied in later years was built for the Citizen's Bank. Several years later it was moved to the corner room of the Dr. O. E. Kendall Building occupied by the Scott Insurance Company and others.

Later Richard M. Phillips served as cashier, being succeeded by Lynn M. Stallcup. Mr. Mark H. Stallcup served as president until his death on January 21, 1912. Mr. G. B. Greer then served as president of the bank.

In April 1923 the bank was reorganized into the Sikeston Trust Company, which continued in operation until 1934, when it was liquidated due to the depression. The officers at this time were: President, G. B. Greer; secretary-treasurer, L. M. Stallcup; assistant secretary-treasurer, C. C. Scott; and directors, J. M. Klein, R. L. Calvin, Dr. H. L. Smith, G. B. Greer, and L. M. Stallcup.

The People's Bank was chartered in 1909 with F. M. Sikes as president and A. C. Sikes as Cashier. The directors were Dr. O. E. Kendall, Charles Tanner, John L. Tanner, Alfred

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Sikes, F. M. Sikes, and William S. Smith. This bank prospered through the years, but like so many others could not weather the great depression of the 1930s. It was liquidated.

The Planter's Bank was opened in August 1955, and has had a continual growth. Its total resources have increased from \$857,978.63 as of December 31, 1955 to \$6,280,681.92 as of December 31, 1959. The officers are: J. R. Harwell, president; W. B. Denton, executive vice-president; Bridwell Crenshaw and Earl M. Allen, vice-presidents; Robert A. Dempster, chairman of the board; O. E. DeField, secretary; Donald C. Jones, cashier; Don Bohanan, assistant cashier; and Emma N. Owen, assistant cashier.

Communications

Before there was a telephone system in Sikeston there were several private lines in operation. Mr. G. B. Greer erected a line between his home and the mill and in 1893 Mr. W. C. Bowman erected one between the mill and the mill office, which was a large frame building in the park north of Missouri Pacific Station.

In 1893 Mr. J. A. Hess erected a communication line from his drug store to his home. It was operated by signals, much like a telegraph

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line, but was soon followed by a telephone using the same copper wire as before.

In 1896 about twenty men, among them Stephen B. Hunter, Senator Marshall, Joseph Moore, Jim McPheeters, J. W. Baker, and Dr. O. E. Kendall erected a telephone line from the Citizen's Bank in Sikeston to the office of Mr. McPheeters, County Clerk, in Benton. Each of the parties contributed about \$20.00. In 1897 a line was built from Benton to Anderson's Store in Commerce.

In 1895 Dr. Kready erected a telephone line from his drug store located where Woolworth's Store now is to his home.

The year 1900 saw the beginning of commercial telephone service in Sikeston, when the Sikeston Company was organized with George Head as owner and John N. Chaney as manager. This company secured a franchise from the city and opened an office at Mr. Chaney's residence on the lot north of the Del Rey Hotel, with Miss Amy Steel (Mrs. Caleb Matthews) as the first operator, assisted by Miss Kate Brown (Mrs. F. J. Randol). After Miss Steel's marriage the exchange was operated by Miss Lucy Wylie (Mrs. Steve Humphreys).

For two months, one hundred twenty-five houses and residences were given free telephone service. At the end of that time sixty-five subscribers agreed to pay for service. It is interesting to note that the first schedule of monthly rentals was \$2.00 per month for business service and \$1.50 for residences and rural sta--

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tions.

In 1903 the exchange was moved to a small building erected in Mr. Chaney's yard, where it remained until it was moved across the street in 1905. Miss Rebecca Pierce was then engaged as chief operator with Mrs. Lige Smith as her assistant. G. M. Stern was general superintendent and manager of the company at that time. He was succeeded by J. E. Armstrong.

Mr. Chaney severed his connection with the telephone company in 1908 to look after his other business interests.

In 1911 the Sikeston Telephone Company was sold to the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company and Mr. Armstrong was made district manager. L. D. Randol succeeded him as local manager on November 1, 1911.

The Southwestern Bell Telephone Company continued to operate the Sikeston exchange until April 11, 1929, when Sikeston, along with twenty-two other exchanges in Southeast Missouri, was purchased by the Cape Girardeau Bell Telephone Company, which immediately thereafter changed its name to the Southeast Missouri Telephone Company. At the time of this transfer of ownership Sikeston had about eight hundred fifty telephones and a population of 4,870. The Sikeston exchange is now owned by the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company and has about 6,500 subscribers.

There is not much information on record of the early railroad stations in Sikeston.

In the early 1890s Price Harris was station

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agent for the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad, but in 1902 he was transferred to Poplar Bluff as agent there. Mr. J. E. Dover was then sent to Sikeston and continued in that capacity until his retirement. His family was among the prominent residents of the town.

It is not known who the first "Frisco" agent was, but in January 1909 Mr. W. T. Malone was assigned to the Sikeston office. Mr. Malone was extremely popular by reason of his unfailing courtesy and disposition to accommodate the merchants and others.

Newspapers

The Sikeston Herald was founded in 1903 by John B. Huffman, who sold it to C. H. Denman on February 1, 1916. On February 1, 1955, Mr. Denman sold The Sikeston Herald to the owners of the Sikeston Standard and retired from full-time newspaper work after spending fifty-four and one-half years in it. The Sikeston Herald and the Daily Sikeston Standard are now both published at the same location by the same owners.

The Sikeston Standard was founded in 1911 by the Naeter Brothers of Cape Girardeau, from a combination of and successor to The Sikeston Star, The Hornet, and the Democrat.

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In 1913 the paper was bought from the Naeter Brothers by Charles L. Blanton. In 1947 it was changed from weekly to twice-a-week, and in 1950 it became a daily.

Both papers are published by corporations, the stockholders of which are members of the Blanton family. C. L. Blanton Junior is managing editor.

Postmasters

In the early days there were two post offices in the area. One, Pleasant Plains, was in the area between Kluge's Mill and the present town of McMullin. The first postmaster appointed to Pleasant Plains was William Johnson in May 1834. He served four months and William Washington Benefield was the postmaster appointed August 17, 1848.

Isaac Hunter was appointed postmaster April 1, 1851. The post office was discontinued February 12, 1856, but reestablished June 17, 1856, with Samuel E. McMullin as postmaster. Samuel S. Watson was appointed on December 13, 1859. The post office was then moved to Sikeston, May 21, 1860, with Mr. Watson as postmaster. This office was discontinued February 13, 1864, and reestablished February 20, 1867, when William Hughes was appointed postmaster. Postmasters since that date are: Charles Chaney appointed September 28, 1870; Samuel Keith,

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January 16, 1871; John D. Ebert, February 23, 1876; John A. Huckaby, January 31, 1883; William B. Huckaby, November 13, 1884; Ben F. Chaney, September 3, 1885; George P. McCoy, May 15, 1889; J. W. Baker, June 19, 1893; U. C. Holley, May 27, 1897; Daniel McCoy, April 16, 1906; Frank H. Smith, January 12, 1914; Anna T. Winchester, February 6, 1923; William H. Tanner, April 1, 1927; William E. Hollingsworth, July 1, 1929; C. F. Bruton, March 19, 1934; and Pleas Malcolm, July 24, 1937.

The new post office building was completed May 13, 1932. The first rural route was established on January 2, 1906. City delivery was started about November 12, 1912. The first parcel post delivery was made with a pushcart on January 2, 1913.

In early days there was also a post office at Ogden, a settlement about where the Fairview School is now. There is no record, but family tradition says that Needham Sikes I was the postmaster, and that the mail was carried from Cape Girardeau in a hack (a covered spring wagon) drawn by two horses. Mr. Joe Anderson of Commerce was one of the early mailmen.

Chapter Three

COMMUNITY AND ITS ACTIVITIES

Social Life

Sikeston's Fourth of July celebrations sixty and seventy years ago were a time for friendly visits and get togethers of friends. Lack of good roads and transportation was the main reason for the infrequency of celebrations of this sort.

Mrs. Mary Silas Puckett, who had a large farm about three miles south of town, usually served a bountiful dinner on the "Fourth."

There was always a brush arbor, with the musicians in the center, and space around for square dancing. Seats were provided along the sides and everyone had a good time.

If it were an election year, the candidates

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for county offices gathered there and addressed the people.

About 1894 Mrs. Kate Chaney gave the first formal afternoon reception even held in Sikeston. It was given to introduce Miss Joy Bond, who had come to Sikeston from St. Louis, to teach music at the Methodist College. It was the first time blives had ever been served here, and they created a lot of interest. There was a good deal of discussion among the guests whether or not to wear gloves. Miss Maggie Moore (Lillard) is said to have been the social arbiter on this occasion.

Horse Race

Barbecues, weddings, and dances were the chief social events of early Sikeston, but the men often gathered at the saloon for a few drinks and much talk, which often ended in bets being placed. Such a gathering in Benton at Charley's Bar resulted in the biggest sporting event--the Great Horse Race of 1882.

Mike Dirnberger boasted of the prowess of his "Knight of St. Louis" a mighty stallion. He was challenged by Jim Walker, owner of "Mollie Simpson," a swift mare. All the men backed one or the other and the course, New Madrid to Benton, was decided on. It was a distance of forty-two miles along King's Highway. Five

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hundred dollars was wagered by Mr. Dirnberger and covered by Mr. Walker, with many other bets being placed. August 3, 1883, was chosen as the date, far enough ahead to permit notification, and bets were placed all the way from St. Louis to New Orleans.

Mr. Dirnberger employed Billy Moore of Price's Landing, an experienced race rider, to ride the stallion. Mr. Walker rode "Mollie Simpson." The horses were taken to New Madrid on August 2, and there at one o'clock, August 3, the race began with the starter firing a Colt's revolver.

There was a large crowd at New Madrid to see the start and a multitude went to Benton to see the finish. All along the way fans gathered to cheer for their favorites, or stand ready with pails of water and sponges to refresh men and beasts. Among those present were Henry Smith and Jack Matthews of Sikeston, and Sam Marshall, north of town.

The stallion was in the lead all the way to Morley. Freight trains blocked the way when Mr. Walker and "Mollie Simpson" came along; it was melon-loading time. So Mr. Walker called for another pint of Bourbon. When Mr. Walker and "Mollie Simpson" got around the box cars, they could not see the stallion and his rider.

In the meantime, Jim McPheeters and James Norrid, riding horses nearly matched to the "Knight" and "Mollie," stole away from Benton and took a roundabout way to King's Highway.

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As they approached Benton Hill they yelled like Indians, whipped their horses into a run and went into Benton in a cloud of dust, the horses neck and neck. They rushed on through the town and the crowd was thrown into confusion, arguing about which horse had won. As there had been some drinking to while away the wait, several fights started.

When Mr. Walker and "Mollie" approached the hill, he observed the tumult and he thought that the "Knight" had won the race. He reined "Mollie" in and overcome with disappointment slipped to the roadside. But a man on the hill recognized "Mollie" and sent Bill Heiserer and Mont Wade to see what had happened. They put Mr. Walker back on "Mollie's" back and she regained her confident stride to go on up the hill and win the victory.

The "Knight of St. Louis" had turned from the course while still in the lead. His legs gave out and he went down. When he was able to walk again he was led into Benton by a back street. So a mighty stallion, aged four, was beaten by a six year old mare and a great day was enjoyed by all sportsmen.

Fraternal, Patriotic, and Civic Organizations

Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri (1888) lists the following fraternal organizations

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in Sikeston: Sikeston Lodge #310 A. F. and A. M. was chartered October 12, 1869, with fourteen members. The original officers were thus: Isaac Hunter, Worthy Master, W. S. Lennox, Senior Warden; Samuel Keith, Junior, Junior Warden; Samuel Stringer, Treasurer; Joseph O. Davis, Secretary; C. Vancil, Senior Doorkeeper; Ira Wilburn, Junior Doorkeeper; and B. F. Hunter, Tyler. In 1888 Dr. O. E. Kendall was Worthy Master and A. S. Harrison, Secretary.

Sikeston Lodge #86, A. O. U. W. received its charter September 16, 1886.

Sikeston Lodge #358, I. O. O. F. was organized under dispensation from the Grand Lodge, September 1, 1876, by J. H. Bethune of Charleston.

The Order of the Eastern Star, #137, was organized in 1907 with Dr. O. E. Kendall as Worthy Patron and Mrs. Jennie (F. M.) Sikes as Worthy Matron.

The Sikeston Woman's Club was organized in 1913 with Mrs. L. O. Rodes, president; Mrs. C. F. Bruton, first vice-president; Mrs. Harry Smith, secretary; Mrs. Alfred C. Sikes, treasurer; and Mrs. Ranney Applegate, auditor.

The King's Highway Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, was organized March 24, 1914, by Mrs. McFarland, State Regent, of Columbia. Officers were: Regent, Mrs. C. A. Cook; Vice-Regent, Mrs. E. P. Crowe; Registrar, Mrs. Emma Kendall; Recording Secretary,

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Juanita Greer; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. J. W. Winchester; Treasurer, Mrs. G. B. Greer; and Historian Lydia Stallcup Chaney.

The American Legion was organized in 1919 with W. H. Sikes the first commander. H. C. Blanton served as Missouri State Commander in 1917.

There are at present thirty-four fraternal, patriotic, civic, and social organizations in the community.

City Government

The following have been Mayors of Sikeston: C. H. Harris, 1891-1894; Elam B. Mills, 1894-1895; Calvin Greer, 1895-1896; James H. Shelby, 1896-1898; Calvin Greer, 1898-1900; Calvin Greer, 1900-1902; John L. Tanner, 1902-1904; John L. Tanner, 1904-1906; E. J. Malone, 1906-1908; P. M. Malcolm, 1908-1910; E. J. Malone, 1910-1912; E. J. Malone, 1912-1914; William S. Smith, 1914-1916; E. J. Malone, 1916-1918; E. J. Malone, 1918-1919; C. C. White, 1919-1922; C. E. Felker, 1922-1924; C. E. Felker, 1924-1926; N. E. Fuchs, 1926-1928; N. E. Fuchs, 1928-1930; N. E. Fuchs, 1930-1932; N. E. Fuchs, 1932-1934; G. W. Presnell, 1934-1936; N. E. Fuchs, 1936-1938; G. W. Presnell, 1938-1946; Marvin L. Carroll, 1946-1950; Joe M. Cravens, 1950-1953; C. H. Butler, 1953-1954; C. H. But-

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ler, 1954-1958; and C. E. Felker, 1958 to date.

The City Hall was erected in 1908 at 121 E. Center Street. Then it was sold to the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company in 1956. It was razed immediately. New quarters for the city officials were acquired by purchasing the building of Berry-Patmor-Day at 316 South King's Highway.

About 1904, while John L. Tanner was Mayor, the first sewer system was installed by Al Sparks, contractor. The Board of Alderman at that time included Dr. H. L. Smith, W. T. Shanks, John Young, J. E. Smith, C. A. Emory, William S. Smith, P. M. Malcolm, Mayor. The architect was W. E. Matthews, and the contractor, M. W. Muir.

The first street paving done in 1913 was of brick; the paving started at the intersection of South New Madrid Street to North Street. Other paving followed, with Matthew Murray as engineer of the projects.

The Sikeston, Ice, Light and Power Company plant and distribution system were designed and erected by C. L. Clary, the general manager. He was not only a first class businessman, but also an engineer of repute and experience.

The officers of the company were: C. D. Matthews Junior, president; Stephen B. Hunter, vice-president; and E. C. Matthews, secretary-treasurer. The company was incorporated in 1905, and the plant built in 1906. It was operated twenty-four hours a day, and the service was excellent. On December 1, 1912, the Light

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and Development Company purchased its entire outstanding capital stock from C. D. Matthews Junior and U. G. Holley.

On March 1, 1913, the Light and Development Company transferred its investment in the Sikeston firm, among others, to the Missouri Public Utilities Company.

On April 1, 1923, the Union Electric Light and Power Company of St. Louis, Missouri, acquired control of the Missouri Public Utilities Company as a result of the North American's purchase of the capital stock of the Light and Development Company. On October 1, 1923, the company leased all of its properties to Union Electric Light and Power Company for a period of five years. However, on September 24, 1924, before this lease expired, the property was acquired by Missouri Utilities Company. The Missouri Utilities was operated as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Community Power and Light Company until 1941, at which time the company became an independent corporation, as it remains today.

In 1930, during the regime of N. E. Fuchs, Mayor, the citizens of Sikeston voted a bond issue of \$150,000 for the construction of a municipal light plant. The plant was finished May 19, 1931, and the first customer was J. W. Marshall, 126 South Street.

The City of Sikeston recently completed building a one million dollar municipal light plant made possible by voting a bond issue. This was necessary because of the rapid increase in population and industry.

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Police Department

Sikeston history would not be complete without mention of the veteran police chiefs. The first, Mr. Joe Randol, served, off and on, more than forty years. It was during his term that the large curfew bell was placed on a high wooden platform in Legion Park. At eight o'clock every night "Uncle Joe," as he was affectionately called, would ring that bell. You never saw any teen-agers on the street after that curfew rang because everyone knew "Uncle Joe" meant business.

The other police chief, who served many years, was the popular Walter Kendall. He served faithfully until ill health forced his retirement.

Military

General Jeff Thompson, who led the Confederate forces through this area during the War between the States, was often referred to as the "Swamp Fox" because he and his men were constantly roaming the almost impassable swamps of Southeast Missouri and Northeast Arkansas. His daredevil daring won him a rep-

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utation in both the South and the North.

He wandered all over this area the first two years of the war. One day he would be having his guns fight a duel with Union gunboats on the Mississippi. Another time he robbed the Bank at Charleston to get money to pay his men and buy arms and supplies. Rumor was that he hid this money under a big oak tree here at the corner of New Madrid Street and King's Highway where Mrs. R. D. Mow lives.

Jeff Thompson was a general in the Missouri State Guard, and several men here served under him. Among them were Charles Chaney, W. Jasper Wilson, Robert Randol, and others. B. F. Hunter was a Captain in the Confederate Army and Mr. James Rodgers also served in the Confederate forces.

No records are available concerning military units stationed in Sikeston prior to 1912. Since that date seven organizations have operated here.

From 9 Decmeber 1912 to 20 June 1914 Company "C" 6th Infantry was organized per paragraph 2 General Orders Number 15, 1912 and disbanded for failure to meet Federal standards per paragrpah 1 General Orders Number 16, 1914. The company was commanded by Captain Charles L. Malone with 1st Lieutenant Seth T. Reeder and 2d Lieutenant Grover C. Sliman as officers.

From 4 June 1917 to the end of World War I Company "K" 6th Infantry was organized per Executive Order, May 1917 effective on 4 June

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1917 and served until its release after World War I. The company was again commanded by Captain Charles L. Malone with 1st Lieutenant Seth T. Reeder and 2d Lieutenant William B. Malone as officers. These officers were with the company upon induction into World War I.

On 30 July 1920 Hq 3d Battalion, 6th Infantry (later redesignated as 140th Infantry) was organized. Later this unit was assigned to Morley and thence to Cape Girardeau commanded by Major Charles L. Malone when organized.

On the same date Hq Co 3d Battalion, 6th Infantry (later redesignated as 140th Infantry) was organized, commanded by 1st Lieutenant Ernest E. Arterburn upon organization.

From 30 July 1920 until 22 December 1940 Company "K" 6th Infantry (later redesignated as 140th Infantry) was organized and remained in Sikeston until induction into World War II on 23 December 1940. It was commanded by Captain Harry E. Dudley from July 1920 to January 1924; by Captain Rufus R. Reed from January 1924 to September 1926; by Captain Charles L. Malone from September 1926 to November 1939; and by Captain Wade L. Shankle from November 1939 until induction on 23 December 1940.

Headquarters 3d Battalion 140th Infantry was organized and commanded by Colonel Herbert F. Wickham from 12 December 1946 until it was converted into a pentomic unit.

From 16 December to the present time the headquarters and headquarters company 3d battalion 140th Infantry has functioned. It was

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commanded by Captain Lewis H. Conley from 16 December 1946 to 9 March 1948; by Captain Joseph M. Cravens Junior from 10 March 1948 to 22 March 1952; by Captain Bruce Lewis from 23 March 1952 until present date. The company was reorganized as the Combat Support Company 2d Battle Group 140th Infantry in 1959.

Sikeston's Colored People

Incomplete, indeed, would be the record of the early days in Sikeston without mention of its colored people.

Amanda "Mandy" Boyce belonged to the Sikes family, but lived most of her life with Mrs. Mary Sikes Puckett. "Mandy" was a wonderful cook and was in great demand when there was a wedding in the community south of town. She always supervised the preparation and serving of the dinners Mrs. Puckett gave on the Fourth or July.

There were three Ogden brothers, Jack, Ike, and Frank, who had belonged to the Isaac Ogden family south of town. Jack Ogden had four children: Jim, Dan, Catherine, and Mandy. Ike had no children. Frank had two sons, Dick and Wash.

Amanda Sewell was the daughter of Craig and Coalee Morrison. She was born on the Myers farm three miles north of town. Her fa-

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ther died when she was small and her mother moved to the farm of Mrs. Puckett south of town. They lived in a cabin in the yard. After Mandy grew up she worked for Mrs. Laura Sikes Smith, Mrs. Will Sikes, and others in the family. She married Robert Sewell and had six children. They lived most of their married life on Mrs. Smith's farm where Robert "Bob" did farm work. Katie is the only living child. She is employed by Mrs. Bettie Matthews where she has lived thirty-seven years.

Jake and Allie Goodin lived on the J. W. Baker farm, where Jake did farm work. He had belonged to the Sikes family.

"Aunt Harriet" had belonged to the Stallcup family, but moved to the farm of Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Chaney where her daughter, Mary Jones, worked.

The descendants of many of the colored people continue to live here. Many stories of their kindnesses and abilities are still told by those who knew them best.



A METHODIST COLLEGE GROUP IN THE 1890s
(For list see pages 73-74)

Chapter Four

SIKESTON'S SCHOOLS

Sikeston Public Schools

Ever since the early days of the community the people of Sikeston have demonstrated consistently an interest in the education of their children. The history of the schools, interestingly enough, has to a degree paralleled school development recorded in early New England, although, of course, at a considerably later date. Shortly after Sikeston was incorporated in 1860 the need for school for the community's children led to the organization of a subscription school supported, as the name implies, by subscriptions or donations from the parents of the

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students. This was held, for want of a better place, in a warehouse which was slightly remodeled for this purpose. According to the archives Professor Jim Allen was the superintendent, principal, and entire staff.

Sometime thereafter, a public school building, supported in the main by taxes, was constructed. This two-story frame building had a downstairs cloakroom and classroom, which was also used for church services on Sundays. The Masonic Lodge, an early Sikeston institution, held its meetings in the upstairs of this edifice. A Mr. Shanks was the first teacher in this tax-supported school, which was opened around 1868 with an enrollment of twenty-three students. At this time Sikeston and Missouri, like the rest of the nation, was trying to recover from the devastation of the Civil War, which, while it affected Sikeston little directly, nevertheless inevitably had its influence on this area.

The student roster of the first public school included: Kate Brown (Mrs. B. F. Chaney, later Mrs. Kate Harris), Sue Gregory (Mrs. Frank Stallcup), Mary Green (Mrs. Henry Pratt), Eunice Green (Mrs. Jim Baker Senior), Betty Greer (Mrs. C. D. Matthews Senior), Jennie Greer (Mrs. Frank Sikes), Rebecca Greer (Mrs. Green B. Greer), Billy Baker, James Baker, B. F. Chaney, Green Greer, John Greer, Belle Keith, Emma Keith, Frank Keith, A. J. Matthews, Johnny Moore, Reece Moore, Mark Stallcup, Maggie Stringer, Amanda Trotter,

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and Amelia Trotter.

For a time following its organization the school had an international flavor as Sam Morrow, from England, was a teacher here; and a year later W. B. Y. Wilkie, from Scotland, served as both preacher and a teacher, a common enough arrangement in many early day schools.

The eastern school, or "Ivy League" influence was also a factor in Sikeston schools at an early date; Mr. Fiefield, Yale graduate, joined the faculty in 1873. He was followed a couple years later by Professor George Moore, also a graduate of Yale University.

The early school term varied considerably, usually being from three to nine months depending on the financial condition of the district.

During the 1880s, or in 1884 to be exact, a late afternoon tornado not only destroyed the school building while classes were being held, but permanently injured Birdie Coleman, one of the pupils. The next year the school grounds were enlarged and a four-room building in the shape of a cross was erected on the South Grade School site. By this time the faculty had increased considerably and the teachers of the time of the first eighth grade commencement in 1889 were: Miss Mollie Shumate (Mrs. Stubblefield), Miss Ettie Shumate (Mrs. Alfred Moore), Miss Cora Harrison, Miss Kate Harrison (Mrs. A. L. Harty), Miss Nannie Harris (Mrs. John L. Tanner), and Miss Mollie Beattie (Mrs. J. H. Miley).

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In 1891 Miss Maggie Moore (Mrs. Robert Lillard) was chosen principal of the schools.

At the close of the century there were slightly over two hundred fifty pupils who more or less regularly attended the Sikeston schools. The curriculum was rather fundamental, as was true of most schools of that period, and included reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, grammar, civil government, history, physiology, and geography. These, of course, are still basic subjects of the curriculum. The high school subjects were taught in the Methodist College, which then existed in Sikeston. It was later discontinued and the building rented for use as a public high school

The turn of the century was marked by the construction of the present South Grade School brick building. Another unit of ten rooms was added to this building about eight years later, and the entire structure is still being used as a unit in the Sikeston school system. A very considerable number of citizens of Sikeston have at one time or another attended South Grade School.

In 1902 a tenth grade graduation exercise was held with five pupils making up the class. They were: Mabel Matthews (Mrs. Lewis Baker, Lynn Stallcup, Lyman Bowman, Murray Q. Tanner, and Ed Osborne.

Two years later Sikeston educational history was made as the first regular commencement of a four-year high school class was held. Its members were: Eula Bowman (Mrs. Will

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Shanks), Rivers Clear (Mrs. W. H. Tanner), Sue Baker (Mrs. Sue Hinchey), and Harold Hess.

An early interest in enriching the basic school program was demonstrated with the development of two debating societies. This activity has grown steadily and has developed into what is currently considered to be one of the leading speech, debate, and forensic departments in the entire nation. Mr. Ralph Bailey, who was to exert a strong educational influence during the mid-period in the Sikeston schools, became superintendent of the system in 1906. His interest in developing a well-rounded program resulted in the beginning of a schedule of competitive athletics. The Sikeston schools sent a track team to compete at Cape Girardeau and a couple years later in 1908 the first football team, the forerunner of an illustrious line of "Bulldog" teams, was organized with Mr. Bailey "doubling in brass" as its mentor.

Sikeston boys took readily to the game and early developed into the power in SEMO football that they have more or less steadily maintained to this day. A yellowed news clip from the Southeast Missouri State College newspaper, The Capaha Arrow, dated October 29, 1913, somewhat shamefacedly and to the chagrin of the college "roters" (sic) relates that the Sikeston High School team held a much heavier Cape Normal college team to a six-six tie. This affair was headlined in the college paper as "The Sikeston-Cape Football Tragedy." From the college viewpoint, no doubt, insult was added

HISTORY OF SIKESTON

to tragedy two weeks later when the Sikeston lads returned to Cape Girardeau to trounce the normal "hulks" (sic) fifteen-zero. Then, more than now, sports writers were brutally pointed apparently. Joe Matthews, now a Sikeston banker and more familiarly known to his friends as "Unk," was a power in this Sikeston victory and scampered all over the field, scoring at least twice in this game. The Sikeston lineup included: Neil Kornegger, Roy Anderson, Orlan Walker, Freeman Rose, Early Malcolm, Reece Marshall, Paul Bowman, William McGilveray, Ewel Berger, Randol Wilson, and Orlando Arthur. Other of Sikeston "little men" who proved to be thorns in the side of the Cape Normal players were Paul Bowman and Ewel Barger, although equal credit for the victory was given to the entire team.

Sikeston High School track athletes became equally distinguished in the annals of early SEMO sports. On one occasion in 1911 a four-man team composed of Glen Matthews, Clarence "Daddy" Felker, Rufus Reed, and Fred Smith went to the SEMO Track and Field Meet at Cape Girardeau and just about swept the meet to easily take team honors. "Daddy" Felker was high point individual in the events by a wide margin. The sprints and middle distance track events were his specialty.

About this time the school program was broadened with an offering of commercial education to meet the need for business trained employees for the fast growing business insti-

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tutions in the developing community. The main building of the present high school was completed in 1915 and the curriculum was further enlarged with the addition of home economics instruction.

Several years later manual training classes were added with Mr. Roy V. Ellise as the instructor, as well as superintendent of the system. Mr. Ellise remained in the schools for sixteen years and played an important part in the growth of the schools.

The Board of Education built a Negro school building in 1924 in its attempt to care for the educational needs of all the children in the community. Following the Supreme Court decision in 1954 the schools were integrated. The physical plant continued to grow with the addition of a gymnasium and the west wing of the high school. About five years later, in 1930, the east wing to the high School building was constructed.

The continuing population growth of the community made additional elementary facilities necessary and accordingly in 1936 the Bailey Elementary School, named for Mr. Ralph E. Bailey heretofore mentioned, was built.

The high school curriculum grew as chemistry was added and a modern laboratory for science students was provided. The Bulldog Barker, the first school paper and now a school and community institution, was started. The home economics cottage was added to the high school facilities. Robert A. Harper was super-

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intendent during this period.

The community continued its growth. The impact of World War II was felt in the schools, as it was in the state, the nation, and the world. Many of the school's graduates made brilliant records in various branches of the service in support of the country's war aims. A considerable number of them made the final sacrifice.

Following the war other additions to the physical plant and to the program were made as the need became evident as a result of increased enrollment and the demand for better education.

Tharon E. Stalling, now a Sikeston businessman, was the superintendent when the music-vocational agriculture building was constructed. A Vocational Agriculture Department and a Veterans Agricultural Training Program were important additional school services. And the present Lincoln School building in Sunset Addition, a modern seven-room school structure, was built. Additions during the past few years have increased the size of this building to thirteen classrooms and the gymnasium-auditorium, to make it one of the best equipped of the community's schools.

The population bulge following World War II was reflected in school enrollments and today the rolls contain in excess of three thousand five hundred pupils. To take care of part of this rapid growth the Board of Education, shortly after the close of World War II, acquired the

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buildings originally established as the Missouri Institute of Aeronautics, an Air Force School for Aviation Cadets, and converted them into the present twenty-eight room Airport School.

One factor which may account for considerable of the community's orderly school progress has been a tendency since early days for the people to select strong school Boards of Education. It is significant that there is a pattern of tenure that has provided continual experienced leadership for this important school policy-making body. Among those whose long periods of board membership left their impress are: J. W. Baker, who served thirty years; R. G. Applegate, a member for forty years; A. A. Harrison, clerk of the board for thirty years; W. C. Bowman, on the board twelve years; J. W. Baker Junior, fifteen years tenure; Frank Mount, fifteen years; C. D. Matthews, a board member for eighteen years; three generations of the Sikes family beginning with F. N. Sikes at the turn of the century and continuing through Alfred Sikes, William Sikes, and ending recently with John Sikes; Lee Bowman, sixteen years a member; Ralph Bailey, secretary to the board for thirty-six years and who was succeeded in this position by his son, Roger Bailey, still clerk to the board; R. A. McCord, a board member for twenty years; and more recently L. M. Standley, a man who has served for fourteen years and now is currently president of the board. There are others with long records of service as board members.

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During the past decade two of the most modern elementary buildings in the country were added to the facilities. These are the eighteen-room Lee Hunter School and the twelve-room Matthews School, named after pioneer families of the community who donated the land on which the schools were built. As evidence that the citizens of the community are aware that the education of their childred is the real hope for the future, today a new one million dollar Senior High School is under construction with completion expected during 1960. This plant will initially house six hundred students, and will be one of the most functional school buildings in the United States.

The curriculum has expanded until now sixty-four units of work are available to students. They may prepare for college entrance or receive the basic courses in several vocational lines in preparation for future vocational training or for making a living after they complete high school. The program is planned to care for the needs of each individual student in relation to his capacity for education. The emphasis is on quality school work and students are required to maintain high standards of performance in relation to their ability. The school is rated as an AAA system, the highest classification given to Missouri schools, and is accredited as a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. School authorities and the Board of Education believe that Sikestonians will continue to demand and work for even better educational op-

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portunities for their children in accordance with the needs of the time and in the light of what the community has done in the past.

The Methodist College

When Mr. John M. Crowe was assigned as pastor to the Sikeston Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in 1892 he immediately saw the need for a high school here. He organized a school which at first had ten pupils: Hollie Sikes, Alfred Sikes, Elma McMullin, Cora Emory, Sadie Emory, Minnie Sayers, Lewis Baker, and Jim Stallcup as well as Lindsay Brown and Harvey Moore of Price's Landing. Charlie Cook of Bloomfield also attended.

In the school group picture on page 62 the three boys grouped at the left are Handy Smith, Walter Kendall, and Porter Kendall. The lad in front is Will Harris. The others, reading from left to right without regard to rows are: Frank Smith, Jim Stallcup, Lindsay Brown, Alfred Sikes, Lewis Baker, Alice Barnes, Mollie Sikes, Effie Darby, Ella Edmondson, Minnie Sayers, Cora Emory (upper) Verna Harp, Lou Emory, Kate Lennox, Sadie Emory, Elma McMullin, and Dr. John W. Crowe.

Classes were held in the Methodist Church which was where the Bank of Sikeston is now located.

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Attendance increased until it was necessary to secure new quarters, so a building was erected at the corner of Center and Sikes Streets. There were two extra rooms where music could be taught, and Miss Joy Bond of St. Louis, who was a highly educated musician having studied in this country and Europe, was employed to teach music.

When the school was moved from the Church to the new building a Mr. Crabbe was employed as teacher, and he was succeeded by a Mr. Prewitt. The school continued until a public high school was started.

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church School is discussed in the next chapter in connection with that church.

Rural Schools

Some mention should be made of the "country schools" that played such a promising part in the early times of this section.

South of town about three miles, on the east side of the road, was the Sycamore School. Early teachers were Miss Alice LaForge, Miss

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Lida Brown, Miss Alice Moore, and Miss Maggie Moore. Some of the pupils were Jim and Albert Stringfield; Will, Frank, Cora, and Handy Smith; Mollie and Alfred Sikes; Katie, Ida, and Sadie Emory; Rex and Jim Smith; Tom Emory; Needham Puckett; Jim and Ella Edmondson. The building was erected by James Emory, father of Ida and Sadie.

There were two country schools north of town, the Chaney and the Lennox. The Chaney School was three miles north, and one mile east. It had a good attendance. Mrs. Bettie Matthews, who was one hundred years old July 19, 1959, told the writer that she rode horseback behind her uncle, Francis McMullin, over to the Chaney School, to a "Writing School" when a child. The school was built by Mr. Levi Dunham Chaney, an early settler. Mrs. Matthews also said she later attended the Lennox School, six miles north of here where Mr. Charles Chaney was the teacher.

INTERLUDE

Mrs. Louis Houck, nee Mary Hunter Giboney, told this writer years ago that her mother's sister, Mrs. Hannah Hunter Stallcup, rode horseback to Cape Girardeau accompanied by her Negro man-servant when her mother, Mrs. Mary Hunter Giboney, died on May 27, 1850. Mrs. Stallcup carried little Mary Hunter Giboney back to Sikeston in front of her on the horse and kept her until the start of the War between the States. Mr. Andrew Giboney, her father, became uneasy about conditions and came after her, taking her to Columbia where she entered Christian College. She was about fourteen years of age.

In talking about her aunt, Mrs. Stallcup, Mrs. Houck said that every Sunday morning Mrs. Stallcup dressed up in her black silkdress, and silk stockings, brought from New Orleans and held a prayer service, reading from the Bible. Everyone on the place, black and white, was required to attend this service.

Mrs. Stallcup was the mother of Catherine Stallcup Sikes Handy who did so much for the churches of Sikeston. It is evident where Catherine received her training.

Chapter Five

CHURCHES

First Methodist Church

The directories of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, of Sikeston for the years 1918 and 1928 contain the following historical statement:

"The Methodist Church in Sikeston was organized with a small class sometime in 1867. There was a preaching point a few miles to the south of the present town for some years prior to the organization of the then village. Rev. L. F. Aspley, who died July 29, 1916, at the age of 85, organized the Church in Sikeston in the year named, in an abandoned box car left at the new station here, when the railroad was torn up during the War (between the States). The class organized at that time continued until the

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present Church and was by several years the first Church to begin work in the village of Sikeston.

"A union Sunday School was organized just after the war by Mrs. Catherine Sikes Handy, but was later discontinued. In 1873 Reese G. Applegate moved to the village from Price's Landing and organized the first Methodist Sunday School and was continued its superintendent for forty years, or until 1913.

"Sikeston was a preaching appointment of Benton, of Charleston, or New Madrid circuits until 1879, when it was placed with Bertrand, and these two small places constituted a charge called "S i k e s t o n and B e r t r a n d" until 1887. Thereafter the charge has been Sikeston Station.

"The first building, on the northeast corner of Front and Stoddard Streets, was erected in 1879 and dedicated in May 1880 by Dr. W. V. Tudor, the pastor at the time being Reverend Spencer. The site for the church was given by Mrs. Catherine Stallcup Handy.

"This building was sold to the Roman Catholic Church, and it is the location of the latter's present house of worship. The second Methodist church erected in 1891 was the old brick building on the northeast corner of Center and New Madrid Streets, with Reverend C. M. Ledbetter the pastor. The St. Louis Annual Conference met in this building in the fall of 1891. the house was dedicated by Bishop Hendrix in 1897.

"The present sanctuary was erected in 1911

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at a cost of \$60,000 and was dedicated by Bishop E. R. Hendrix, December 3, 1916. The pastors connected with this building were H. P. Crowe, who initiated the purchase of the lot; P. G. Thogmorton, who began the subscription; and J. M. Bradley, under whose pastorate the building was erected. R. G. Applegate was chairman of the Building Committee for all three of these houses and was the leader and personal inspiration of these advanced movements.

"The St. Louis Annual Conference again met in Sikeston, Bishop Hendrix presiding, September 1915."

In the second half-century of Sikeston Methodism, the church has grown with the community until it has reached its present membership of sixteen hundred. Descendants of many of the pioneer families of Sikeston are found in its membership; indeed, there are several families with fifth generation members in "Old First Church." A roll call of the Bishops, Presiding Elders, and District Superintendents, and pastors of the church would list some of the most distinguished names of Methodism in Missouri and the Upper South. In the past such names as those of colorful "Rough and Ready" Watts and of the forthright Clarence Burton are among the glorius company. Presiding Elders H. P. Crowe and R. L. Russell are well-remembered, Brother Crowe once serving as pastor. Bishops Denny, Hendrix, and Holt are easily recalled by the older members, and only last year Bishop Holt, though retired, conducted a

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preaching mission at the church.

Historical touches are preserved in the beautiful stained-glass windows of the sanctuary, memorials to dear departed ones of the congregation. These windows are the object of admiration of many from other communities, and numerous photographers have come to capture their loveliness on film. Bronze memorial plaques commemorating the work of Reverend Aspley and Mr. Applegate hang in the sanctuary, and there are many other memorial gifts which testify to the life and labors of those who loved First Methodist Church.

In 1915 the new education annex, costing more than \$150,000 was added to the sanctuary, the Reverend M. C. Joyce being pastor at the time. First Methodist Church's Sunday School has grown so that even the new building is inadequate for the present. In 1958 two houses to the north of the church were purchased, and the brick structure, styled the "Parish House," is used for additional classes and social activities.

First Methodist Church has always been a booster for community life. Numerous scout organizations meet in its facilities, and the church maintains a strong youth program. The church members are active in civic affairs; and the church teaches that there is no division between sacred and secular but that even the common task should be made a bold discipleship.

In 1957 First Methodist Church officials pur-

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chased the former Christian Church building and sponsored a second Methodist Church. Wesley Church, as the new congregation is called, is presently pastored by the Reverend John O. Ensor, a much-loved former pastor of First Methodist Church, who came out of retirement to shepherd the new Methodist flock.

Among the former pastors of First Methodist Church still living are: Thomas B. Math-er, John O. Ensor, H. H. Orear, John L. Tay-lor, E. W. Bartley, and M. G. Joyce. The present pastor is J. C. Montgomery Junior and the church's associate minister is Robert G. Binginheimer. Three ministers have been li-censes to preach on the recommendation of the church quarterly conference: H. L. Corbin, Jesse M. Layton, and Max Lathum, who is a pre-theological student at Central College.

In 1958 First Methodist Church entertained the St. Louis Annual Conference, a privilege generally reserved for the city. Bishop Eugene M. Frank presided and hundreds of lay and ministerial visitors were delighted with the hos-pitality of Sikeston.

Situated on its triangular lot, First Meth-odist Church has a commanding position at the approach to a downtown area. A friend once whimsically observed that the town was built around a church," so much does the Byzantine-style building rise up in the center of the com-munity. But First Methodist Church folks like to think that their church is deep-rooted in Sikeston history. So may their Christian faith

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go deeply into the live of the community we love.

The history of the First Methodist Church would not be complete without mention of the work of the women of the church. The "Ladies Aid Society" was organized in 1873 for the purpose of Home Missions. The charter members were: Mesdames Laura Sikes Smith, Sue Chaney Kendall, Katie Brown Chaney, Jennie Greer Sikes, Sue Gregory Stallcup, Amelia Ranney Applegate, Fannie Turner Greer, Frances Applegate, Tanner, Katie Emory Matthews. Others who joined later were Mesdames Ella Kochtitsky, J. C. Lescher, and Ward Jones Ebert.

The purpose of this group was to create funds to be utilized for the poor, the sick, and other essentials. Their regular meetings were held every two weeks, when sewing, quilting, and other work was done.

The lots for this church were given by Mrs. Catherine Stallcup Sikes Handy, the deed being made to R. G. Applegate, Daniel H. Leedy, and John L. Shumate, trustees. The deed was to lots 11-12-13 of Block 4, original town of Sikeston, and was recorded in Book 25, Page 350, Scott County Records.

The day of the dedication, a special train ran from Charleston and a large basket dinner was served. Mrs. Katie Green Cook, granddaughter of Mrs. Handy, played the organ for the dedication.

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First Baptist Church

The First Baptist Church, located on South King's Highway, has been a part of the spiritual life of Sikeston since 1868. Many pastors have served the church, but the names of S. P. Brite and E. D. Owen, the present pastor, are best known for their work in the growth and development of the church.

Records show that there were twelve members in the original organization and that they worshipped on alternate Sundays in the Methodist church building, which was a frame structure located where the Catholic church building now stands.

In 1882 a lot was given to the church by Mrs. Catherine Sikes Handy. The lot was located where present church building stands. It was not until 1884 that the members decided to erect a building. It was a one-story frame structure. When almost finished, the building was completely demolished by a tornade which struck the town.

A second building was erected, and the first pastor was a Reverend J. N. Hall, who came from Fulton, Kentucky, to preach once a month. the bell which called the members to worship in 1884 now hangs in the north tower of the present church building. Though it is seldom heard today, it holds an important place in the

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history of the church.

Accurate records have not been kept, but it is known that the church nearly died during the 1880s, chiefly because there was no regular pastor. In 1893 a Reverend Rubottom sometimes rode or drove here, but if the weather were bad he could not bridge the swamps between Sikeston and Greenville where he lived.

In the early days the church had no regular Sunday School and it was not until 1896 that the Sunday School was organized. The enrollment was twenty-five.

Not long afterward the Reverend George W. Chapman became the first regular pastor. It was during this time that the first Ladies Aid Society was organized. The attendance at the services was small, but the membership grew to sixty.

The church pastors prior to 1908 were the Reverend E. B. Moore and the Reverend Frank Wilson. It was during this time that the members helped organize two other churches in the area. A church was organized west of Sikeston at Brown Spur and also one, called Malone's Chapel, south of Sikeston at Simmons' Grove.

From 1908 until 1912 the pastors were the Reverend H. M. Grace and the Reverend R. F. Lowery. In 1912 the Reverend W. F. Garnett was called as pastor, and it was during his time that the old church building, much in need of repair, was torn down. The members moved to the second floor of the old City Hall, and the services were held there and in the building now

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occupied by the Music Store on North King's Highway. A foundation and basement was built and a roof placed on the "hole in the ground," as the basement came to be known. All service was conducted in this basement.

In 1915 the Reverend S. P. Brite came to Sikeston as pastor, and it was during his stay that the present church was built. The resident membership at that time was two hundred. The first services were held in the new building on March 15, 1916.

The Reverend Brite left Sikeston in 1917 and Reverend Greenway came as pastor. In 1922 the church recalled Reverend Brite and he returned to stay until 1929.

Reverend A. C. Rudloff, Reverend Leslie Garrison, Reverend Verne F. Oglesby, and Reverend E. W. Milner served before 1941, when the present pastor, Reverend E. D. Owen, came.

Under Reverend Owen's leadership the church has shown a continual growth. With a church membership of six hundred and a Sunday School of five hundred fifty in 1940, the membership is now more than a thousand. The church has an active Women's Missionary Society, a Training Union, and a Brotherhood.

With the growth in activities and membership it was necessary to enlarge the auditorium and add an education wing in 1950. The new building soon proved inadequate, and in 1955 another wing was added. With the future in mind, land

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has been purchased adjoining the educational buildings.

While the membership has grown, the spiritual life of the members has not been idle, for it was in 1949 that a Mission Church was started at the Airport. Land was purchased on Missouri avenue and a building erected in 1950. The church was organized and is now the Fellowship Baptist Church.

In 1958 land was bought for a Mission site on Murray Lane and a church has been built there.

Several of our young men have been ordained by the church and are now ministers serving Baptists in a fine way. Among them are Reverend Paul Higgins, 1944; Reverend Carroll Owen, 1948; and Reverend Charles Tope, 1949. Reverend Tope and his wife are now serving in South Africa as missionaries. Reverend Charles H. Ray was ordained in 1950.

In 1948 the church began a Sunday morning broadcast from 10:30 to 11:30, which has continued to the present time.

Reverend Paul Higgins was called as associate pastor in 1957; he remained until January 1959. Seeing the need of a Music and Education Director, Roger Stewart and his family came to Siketon to serve beginning July 1959.

Reverend Owen and his wife live at 108 West Gladys in a parsonage purchased by the church in 1944.

So, after almost one hundred years, the

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First Baptist Church still has a part in the spiritual life of the community. This is true because twelve dedicated people had a vision in 1868. Down through the years there have been many more consecrated and dedicated members, both past and present, who have taken and are taking their places in the history of the church.

Hunter Memorial First Presbyterian Church

The founding of the First Presbyterian Church is recorded thus:

"A Presbyterian Church having this day been duly organized in Sikeston, Scott County, Missouri, by Rev. Wm. B. Young Wilkie (Evangelist of Presbytery of Potosi, Old School Synod of Missouri) assisted by Rev. W. W. Faris of Cape Girardeau; and Mr. T. H. Brown having been duly elected and ordained Ruling Elder of the same, a meeting of session was had at Mr. Brown's house after evening service."

The meeting was opened with prayer, Elder Brown was elected clerk of the session and it was agreed to invite Reverend Wilkie to supply the pulpit for the coming year for such part of the time as he was able to give (not less than 1/4) and Elder Brown was directed to take steps toward raising support for him. The clerk of session was directed to see that some house of

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worship be provided for temporary use.

Thus is recorded in the book of the Minutes of the Session the first organizational meeting of a Presbyterian Church in Sikeston.

The Register of Communicants lists the following members admitted on that July 10, 1870: T. H. Brown, Mrs. Francis Moore (widow), Samuel C. Curran, and Mary A. McMullin (widow). On December 24, "Thomas Reid Brown, Elizabeth Jane Brown, William Taylor Brown, and John Archibald Brown (children of T. H. Brown) after due examination were administered the sealing ordinance of Baptism and the Lord's Supper." On the Register of Baptisms, under date of December 24, 1870, are also found the names of five children of Mrs. Moore, the widow: Mary Alice, John Steven, Rees, Sarah Margaret, and Anna Thomas.

On February 15, 1874, with Reverend W. McCarty serving as moderator, the session met at the school house in Sikeston, which was located on the site of the present South Grade School. The building consisted of two rooms, one above the other, the upper room used by the Masonic Lodge and the lower used as a school-room. It was the lower room which was used by this first Presbyterian congregation, and on this February 15, 1874, the following were received into membership on letter of dismissal from the Presbyterian Church at Union City, Tennessee: Mrs. Samuel Morrow, Miss Mary A. Morrow, Mr. Samuel A. Morrow. And on September 23, 1874: James M. Morrow, Jane

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K. Morrow, Martha E. Morrow, and Fanna M. Brown were received into membership after due examination and profession of faith, which brought the total membership to twenty-three.

Apparently this first attempt to establish a Presbyterian Church in Sikeston was unsuccessful, for, according to the next entry in the Minutes of the Session, under date of February 19, 1894--twenty years later: "At the close of meeting held by Synod's Evangelist Rev. Frank Mitchell, assisted by Rev. J. D. Fleming, a Presbyterian Church in connection with the Presbytery of Potosi, Synod of Missouri, U. S., was constituted and the organization was completed by the election, ordination and installation of the following ruling elders: T. R. Brown (son of the first ruling elder, T. H. Brown) and B. L. Barnes. The following names are of the charter members: T. R. Brown, B. L. Barnes, R. W. Johnson and Mrs. Laura Dovers."

On September 7, 1895, with Reverend B. W. Granger serving as moderator of the session, Mr. and Mrs. Bray, Mrs. Ella Randol, Mrs. Nettie Barnes and a fourth woman whose name was never fully entered, were received by letter, which brought the membership of this second organizational congregation to eight.

Examination of the record discloses that apparently this attempt also met with failure, as the next entry is a clipping from The Sikeston Herald of May 15, 1924: "The organization of a Presbyterian Church in Sikeston last Sunday

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afternoon at the Odd Fellows Hall attracted a large crowd. Delegations from Cape Girardeau, Charleston, Dexter, Chaffee, Clarkton and Parma attended. Six elders and five deacons were elected. Rev. H. L. Saunders presided & Rev. C. H. Morton of Cape Girardeau preached the sermon. Rev. J. P. Smith of Charleston charged the people, and Senator Oliver of Cape Girardeau charged the newly elected officials. The new church organization will be officially known as the First Presbyterian Church of Sikeston.

"The members voted to organize a Sunday School at an early date. Services for the present will be held every other Sunday at the Odd Fellows Hall. . . . Rev. Mr. H. L. Saunders is acting as pastor."

At the first recorded meeting of this session on May 24, 1924, attended by Reverend H. L. Saunders as moderator, J. B. Sands, W. L. Hutters, W. J. Behen, W. M. Clifton, and R. Drummond, it was agreed to use the Odd Fellows Hall for church and Sunday School purposes, "the same being available at the rental of \$1.00 per Sunday. Elder R. B. Drummond was elected clerk of the session and Miss Verla Pierson was elected pianist."

Reverend Saunders served as acting pastor until the church secured the services of Reverend J. M. Fontaine, who also served, jointly the church at Chaffee. In January of 1925 plans were first considered for erecting a church on a lot at the corner of East and Matthews Streets

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donated by G. A. Dempster, and on May 15, 1925, Senator Oliver of Cape Girardeau, as one of the oldest Presbyterians present, turned the first spade of soil at ground breaking ceremonies. The building was ready for occupancy in October of that year, at which time there were approximately sixty-six members on the roll, although the church was again without a minister.

Reverend R. F. Davidson, a student minister, served the church during the summer of 1926, followed by Reverend Mason, whose name appears in only one recorded meeting of the session. Reverend William Schoen served in fall and winter of 1927-1928. Followed in summer 1928 by Glen A. Williams, a student. Mr. W. H. Hoover was called in March of 1929, serving the New Madrid church jointly, until his death in March 1932. Reverend Bartley Schwegler served as acting pastor until a call was extended to Reverend D. D. Ellis who had come as a student supply pastor in May of 1934. Mr. Ellis served this church and the church at Charleston until September 1939 when he accepted a call to the First Presbyterian Church of Festus.

Reverend D. D. McAdams accepted a call to the Sikeston church in 1940, by which time the congregation had outgrown its facilities and plans for the erection of a new building were being discussed. However, Mr. McAdams left in 1943 because of ill health; this marks the beginning of a sharp decline in the fortunes of the church. By 1945, with no pastor, the member-

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ship was down to twenty-three. Mr. Bartley Schwegler served as acting pastor, but there was discussion as to whether or not to continue services at all. However, on a ten to four vote, January 14, 1945, the congregation decided to continue services in the present location. Sixteen members had just transferred memberships to other churches, and by this time the church was not only without funds and far from self-sustaining, but was able to continue in existence only through the financial assistance of the Home Mission Board.

By October of 1950 a call had been accepted by Joseph N. Suitor, and it looked as though better times were ahead for this struggling congregation. Plans were discussed for remodeling the church and purchasing a manse. On November 26, 1950, although the church roll listed only thirty-five active members, plans for a new building were again being discussed. By the end of 1951 there were sixty-five members, and on April 29, 1951, the congregation voted to purchase a building site on Tanner Street for the future erection of a building. This site, however, was subsequently sold. During the past year the church roll grew to a total of one hundred six, an increase of forty-one, and by the end of the next church year thirty-six more new members had been added. of this total of one hundred thirty-seven, one hundred two had joined since Mr. Suitor came.

Mr. Suitor resigned in October 1953 to accept a call to Mayfield, Kentucky, and on No -

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vember 29, 1953, a call was extended to Mr. Edwin R. Short. A manse on North King's Highway was purchased for his use.

On October 11, 1954, with a total membership of one hundred thirty-two an agreement was signed to accept a building site in Hunter Acres, on Allen Boulevard, at Wakefield. Following groundbreaking ceremonies on October 9, 1955, work was begun on a new building, to be known as the Hunter Memorial First Presbyterian Church. The cornerstone was laid on April 15, 1956, and the new building occupied and dedicated on October 14, 1956. The total cost was approximately \$100,000. The membership by this time was one hundred eighty-five; forty-six being new since the coming of Mr. Short.

Mr. Short resigned June 30, 1958, to accept a call to Southeast Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, Missouri. A call was extended to Mr. Donald W. Davidson in September 1958; he accepted and served until October of 1959.

Women of the Presbyterian church in Sikeston have been active as a group since their first organization in 1926, aiding the church in personal service and in finances. In 1948 the name of this organization was changed from "Women's Auxiliary" to "Women of the Church." There are currently four active circles.

So, after almost one hundred years, the dreams of that first small group of Presbyterians have finally been realized, with the erection of a fine new building and the firm establishment of a strong Presbyterian congregation in Sikeston.

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St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church celebrated its Golden Jubilee in October of 1955, dating its half-century of existence from the appointment of the Reverend Father Conrad Brockmeier as first resident pastor. Actually, in 1885 Father Connelly, then pastor of the New Madrid Parish, journeyed here and celebrated Mass for the ten Catholics then in this parish, at the home of Frank Heisler. Among these were Mrs. John Chaney and Mrs. Cy Harris, both now deceased.

For two years Mass was celebrated once a month for the tiny group. In 1887 plans were drawn for the first Catholic church, and Mr. Heisler was commissioned to erect it. Exactly one year later, a tornado ripped through Sikeston and the new church was demolished.

From 1888 through 1891 Fathers Klein, Brandt, and Hussman of Charleston, and Father O'Flaherty of Poplar Bluff, took turns in coming to offer Mass for the fifteen persons then members.

In 1891 the old Methodist church, at Front and Stoddard Streets, was purchased for eight hundred dollars. It was remodeled by Mr. Heisler and in 1892 was dedicated to St. Francis Xavier. Fathers Brandt and Hussman, of

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Charleston, came once a month to offer Mass.

In 1905 the fledgling parish took on a new status with the appointment of Father Conrad Brockmeier as its first resident pastor. A frame rectory was built at a cost of \$1,200. The intervening years have been ones of mixed triumphs and vicissitudes with several priests, sent here as pastors, doing their work efficiently and moving on to larger and greater responsibilities.

In 1911 Reverend J. A. Schultz was appointed resident pastor, and in 1916 Father Moran succeeded him; but tragedy struck the parish when, just a few short weeks after his arrival Father Moran was killed in an automobile accident. He was succeeded by Father George M. Ryan, who in 1921 added to the church plant by purchasing the former Emanuel Schorle residence at the rear of the church. In it a parochial school was started. Mrs. Bettie Matthews donated the purchase price for the building. Three Sisters of Mercy were assigned here to teach the twenty pupils enrolled.

In 1922 Father Ryan was transferred to All Saints Parish, St. Louis, and Father Thomas R. Woods became resident pastor here; he is now Monsignor Woods, assigned to St. Thomas of Aquin Parish, St. Louis. In 1930 the parish took another step forward by purchasing the former Smith residence, north of the church, at a cost of \$10,000. Although undertaken during the dreary depression years, this was remodeled into a convent and school for the Sisters of

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Mercy.

In 1936 Father J. J. O'Neill came from St. Edward's Parish, St. Louis. He did much, with the help of the Sisters, in caring for the three hundred refugees from the Mississippi River flood, within his first year. Within two years he had built the present beautiful church at the corner of Front and Stoddard Streets. It was completed at a cost of \$24,500, and on July 31, 1938, Father O'Neill offered the first Mass in it.

In 1940 Father A. H. Hoormann came as assistant, and was succeeded temporarily in May 1947 by Father Ralph Zimmer, who was transferred to St. Peter's Church, Jefferson City, in September 1947. He was succeeded by Father Francis Matyas.

Time and the steady increase in the school age population necessitated still further addition to the church plant. In May 1950 work was begun on a new school which was completed one year later at a total cost of \$180,000. As a part of this project the former brick convent and school was remodeled into a much needed rectory.

In 1953 Father Matyas was transferred to St. Louis and was succeeded by Father Richard Suren.

When the new Catholic Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau was created across the south half of Missouri in November 1956, the area including all parishes from Fredericktown south to Sikeston was designated as the Sikeston Deanery, with the then Monsignor O'Neill as its first

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Dean. Monsignor O'Neill was also chosen a Consultor with the new Bishop Charles H. Helmsing.

In 1956 Father Suren was replaced by Father James Hain as assistant; he returned to his home diocese of St. Louis in May 1957, when Reverend Richard Rolwing became assistant. On the death of Monsignor O'Neill September 25, 1959, Father Rolwing was appointed Administrator of the Parish, pending the assignment of a new pastor. Monsignor O'Neill left many friends, both Catholics and non-Catholics, acquired in his contacts as pastor.

The 1959 enrollment of the Parochial School is two hundred twenty-two pupils, with five Sisters of Mercy as teachers. Sister M. Michaeline is the principal. The parish has one thousand and one hundred seventeen parishioners.

First Christian Church

In 1918 seeing the need for a church building Mrs. Jennie Green and Needham Sikes, daughter and son of Mrs. Catherine Sikes Handy, gave the lot for the First Christian Church. It was located at the corner of Trotter and New Madrid Streets. The building erected there was sold in 1956 to the First Methodist Church for the use of the new Wesley Methodist Church.

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A complete list of ministers who have served the Sikeston church is not available, but among them were the following, together with the years of service: Reverend Field (while the tabernacle was being used); Reverend J. B. Lockhart, 1914; Reverend I. H. Fuller, 1915; Reverend Houston, 1919; Cyrus Mitchell, 1920; Reverend E. B. Hensley, 1923; Reverend McFarland, 1930; Reverend W. W. Walker, Reverend R. M. Talbert, 1933-38 and 1943-50; Reverend R. S. Raines, 1939 and 1940; Reverend J. P. Reed, 1941 and 1942; Reverend G. H. Adkins, 1951 and 1953; and the present minister, Reverend Wayne Davis since January 13, 1954. Each of these gave of their particular ability to the growth of the church. A special word of tribute to Reverend Talbert must be included. His spiritual leadership of this congregation, and in fact of the whole district, cannot be measured. His standard might well have been "A True Christian Gentleman."

During the ministry of the Reverend Adkins the Bible School Department was fully organized and the church began to operate on a functional-committee type of program. This type continues with the following: Worship, Evangelism, Membership, Missionary, Stewardship, Christian Education, and Property Committees.

To the present minister, Reverend Wayne Davis, goes the distinction for leadership in achieving the fine building program. The need for more room to serve the growing membership became a pressing problem, and the first

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concrete action was taken by the congregation on November 14, 1954, when it voted to buy three and one-half acres of land from the C. D. Matthews estate southeast of and adjacent to the Missouri Delta Hospital on Highway 61. On October 1, 1955, ground breaking ceremonies for the new building were held. The educational unit was built first. It included modern facilities which made it both practical and beautiful. On September 16, 1956, this building was formally dedicated, and since it was free of debt the congregation immediately began looking to the future. The church has seen the culmination of the hopes and dreams of years. The stately spire atop the sanctuary symbolized the desire of the church everywhere to lead men to God. The formal dedication of the sanctuary was held December 14, 1958.

Many people have given generously of their time and money to the growth of this organization. Mrs. Ellis Osborn gave the communion table and chairs which have been used by the congregation since 1919. Mr. J. F. Cox gave the first electric organ in memory of his wife. There have been so many--may they know the appreciation of the present membership.

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Concordia Lutheran Church

It was forty years ago, in November 1919, that Reverend A. H. Kerstner, then serving as pastor of a Lutheran mission at Parma, Missouri, preached the first Lutheran sermon to about fifteen people in the Odd Fellows Hall. Only three Lutheran families and a few visitors made up his audience. Reverend Kerstner served these Lutherans for about a year, holding services twice every month.

In 1920 Reverend A. C. Fritze began a short six-month pastorate at Sikeston before accepting a call as a missionary in India.

From 1921 to 1925 Reverend William Schuelke, then pastor of the Lutheran Church at Chaffee, also served at Sikeston, holding services in the City Hall and at the Chaney School, three miles north of Sikeston. Because of the frequent change in pastors, the congregation experienced little growth. Other difficulties were that the Sikeston congregation lacked a permanent place of worship as well as a resident pastor. Services were held in the home of the late Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bucholz and in the Baptist Church at Miner Switch.

In 1925 the congregation was blessed with its first long-term pastor, Reverend E. H. Koerber, who served for ten years. He likewise

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served from his pastorate at Chaffee. During his pastorate, on December 11, 1927, the congregation completed and dedicated its first church building on the corner of Park and Wakefield Streets. Lot and building cost \$3,737. It was in use until 1952. Reverend Koerber accepted a call to Springfield, Missouri, where he is now serving a congregation of nine hundred twenty.

In 1936 Reverend Martin L. Cook was called to serve the Chaffee and Sikeston congregations. In 1938 he accepted a post as government Chaplain. Later in World War II he was killed on duty in an airplane crash.

The new pastor was Reverend Herbert Teske who served from 1938 to 1940. During his pastorate the frequency of services was increased to each Sunday. He now serves a congregation at Beecher, Illinois. The first resident pastor was Reverend G. C. Schramm who arrived in 1940. A parsonage was bought at the corner of Park and College Streets. With a resident pastor the congregation enjoyed a steady growth and in 1942 plans were made for a new building. However, World War II delayed the effort. Reverend Schramm is now the pastor of a twenty-four hundred member church in Alhambra, California

Reverend Earl Weis succeeded Reverend Schramm in August 1945. During this time the congregation was planning for the construction of its new church as soon as building conditions would permit. A building program was launched

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in 1950. Paul Buchmueller of Sikeston was engaged as an architect. On February 25, 1951, groundbreaking services were held and the new church was dedicated February 24, 1952. In 1954 Reverend Weis accepted the pastorate of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Hammond, Indiana.

On August 21, 1955, the present pastor, Reverend W. Eugene Lauterbach, was installed. During his pastorate thus far the congregation has purchased additional property on the corner of Wakefield and Ranney Streets. Plans are being made for an educational building on this site.

Thus in forty years, with the Lord's blessing, the Lutheran church has progressed from a group numbering three families with no house of worship to a congregation of more than three hundred possessing a beautiful house of worship, a parsonage, and additional property for expansion. For this, the Lutheran Christians thank the Lord.

First Church of the Nazarene

In July of 1924 the Reverend C. L. Frost and the Reverend J. E. Smith, both of Alabama, came to Sikeston with a big tent and pitched it on the Greer lot near the Missouri Pacific depot across the street from the present Coca-

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cola plant and the Catholic church.

The first service of the tent meeting began on a Saturday. On the next Wednesday Mr. Radwin O. Bell, singer from Atlanta, Georgia, joined the group.

This first effort lasted but two weeks and closed against the wishes of the people. However, there had been fifty-five conversions and a glorious meeting, but no organization was perfected at this time.

The next July Reverend Frost was assisted in another tent campaign by the Edwards Evangelistic Quarter consisting of Reverend Mrs. Grace Edwards, Mrs. Ethel Hanna, Miss Opal Fretz, and Miss Edith Olinghouse. This proved to be a wonderful revival with one hundred thirty-one professions.

Reverend E. C. Dees, District Superintendent of the Missouri District, Church of the Nazarene, gave especially valuable service during this meeting. At the close of it a church was organized with about thirty-one members. The Sunday School was organized and met for three weeks in Malone Park.

The first pastor for the church was Reverend J. L. Cox who served two years. During his stay a property, which has proved to be a permanent location, was purchased at the corner of Scott and Trotter Streets. The building then consisted of a frame dwelling which was torn away and a yellow tile structure erected.

Following Reverend and Mrs. Cox as pastors, Reverend and Mr. J. A. Duncan came,

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to lead the Little congregation for five years. During their stay a goodly increase was made in membership.

Next arrived the Reverend and Mrs. C. F. Transue and family to guide the church. Under their supervision the building was enlarged to provide better facilities and accommodate larger attendance. Reverend Transue had a very fruitful pastorate of seven years.

In August, 1940, the present incumbent, Reverend J. W. Hoffert, drove into Sikeston to take charge of this fine, growing church. Naturally through the nineteen and more years of this ministry, many other changes and various promotions have been made until today the First Church of the Nazarene takes its place with other religious groups as a permanent, and welcome, institution in Sikeston.

One of the first ventures for the church under Reverend Hoffert was the purchase of a parsonage at 720 Taylor Avenue in June of 1942. This has been a very comfortable home across the years for the Hoffert family as well as a commodious place to entertain the many visiting church workers while they gave special ministry to the people.

Next in line was the building of the very beautiful and practical three-story educational annex. This was finished in February 1951. it has four large assembly rooms with nineteen classrooms and three restrooms.

Then came the camp dormitory which was erected for the comfort and convenience of the members while attending the district gatherings

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during the summer at the district center known as Pine Crest located near Fredericktown, Missouri. Here the boys, girls, and young people have a week of recreational activity under the supervision of the ministers and laymen—always with Christian emphasis predominating. Also, during the summer a week is given to camp meeting and another is taken by the annual convention and assembly for the churches of the district.

The local congregation has through the years had a very active missionary interest both for the foreign and home work. Much credit is due them for helping to get a Church of the Nazarene in surrounding communities, namely: Cape Girardeau, Charleston Matthews, and lastly the second church here in Sikeston which has been named the Eastside Church of the Nazarene.

From among the local membership have come six ministers and one foreign missionary who has served in the island of Haiti.

There are two who survive from the roll of charter members: Mrs. L. H. Rector, who has only recently moved to Cape Girardeau to make her home with a daughter; and Mrs. James Smith, who resides in St. Louis with her son.

Both the First and the Eastside churches have doors open to meet the spiritual needs of the people of the Sikeston community, and are ready to serve in the name of the great Head of the Church, Christ, our Lord.

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Seventh Day Adventist

Mr. and Mrs. Ira Chaney had written several letters to the Missouri Conference of Seventh Day Adventists asking for an evangelist to come and have meetings here. In March of 1937 an evangelistic party consisting of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Leiske, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Schmidt, and Mr. E. F. Finck came.

A lot was purchased at 503 Kathleen and East Streets and a place to hold meetings was built. June 12, 1937, the church organized with twenty-four members. Elder E. L. Branson, president of the conference officiated. There were visitors from Fredericktown and Poplar Bluff. A basket dinner was served on the lawn of Mr. and Mrs. Chaney's home.

Work began to finish the inside of the church with everyone giving all he could in money and work. The church paid off the conference debt in February 1940. That spring pews were ordered. The whole, free of debt, was dedicated in June 1941 with Elder N. C. Wilson, F. A. Mote, and L. L. McKinnley officiating.

A classmate of Mrs. Flavia Patterson, Miss Bertha McClellan, gave Florentine glass for the windows in memory of Mrs. Flavia. Mr. Ira Chaney installed the glass.

Two families who were members here have

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served in mission fields: Dr. and Mrs. M. G. Anderson and family at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Skinner (maiden name Gladys Collendar) in Teheran, Iran.

A Church School functioned from 1940 through 1943. Some of the members have moved away, and some have been called to rest--to await the call of the Life Giver. Others have come in to help carry the "Light of Truth." There are four charter members surviving at this writing.

This year Mr. and Mrs. Albert Vincent and family presented rubber floor tile for the children's department. Mr. and Mrs. Roy O. Chaney presented rostrum and communion furniture.

Most of the ministers have lived in Poplar Bluff since that is centrally located for the district they serve.

The grateful congregation hopes it may be a help and inspiration to many.

Church of Christ

The Church of Christ in Sikeston had its beginnings during the spring of 1924 when about twenty people began holding meetings in their respective homes. The first gospel meeting was in the summer of 1925. It was conducted by J. C. Malphurs in a brush arbor near the South Grade School. In 1927 the church bought

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lots on South King's Highway and Edmondson Streets, where an existing frame dwelling served as a meeting place.

During the summer of 1946 the present brick building at 602 South King's Highway was constructed. The preacher's home at 209 Edmondson Street was built during the fall of 1947. In the spring of 1955 the church building was enlarged until it comfortably seats three hundred eighty. Complete air-conditioning was added in 1957. The minister's residence was enlarged during June and July 1958.

Harlan Hurd was the first minister to be fully supported by the congregation, coming to Sikeston in 1948. J. E. Green came in June of 1951 and L. E. Garner in January of 1955. The present minister, Landon A. Hatley, moved to Sikeston on September 16, 1957.

The membership as of September 1959 was two hundred fifty seven. Average weekly attendance was: Sunday Bible School, two hundred fifty-seven; Sunday morning worship, two hundred ninety-nine; Sunday evening service, one hundred eighty-one; The midweek Bible study, one hundred thirty-one. The average weekly contribution during 1959 was \$319.00.

Present elders are J. D. Castleberry, W. J. Cates, E. V. Edwards, J. P. Jones, and Eugene Nanney. Present deacons are Raymond Galemore, J. R. James Junior, Bruce Lambert, Quentin Lambert, and W. C. Mock.

A small colored congregation was established in Sunset Addition of Sikeston in 1949. Their building was constructed in 1954.

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First General Baptist Church

The First General Baptist Church of Sikeston was organized on July 17, 1938. Previous to this a group who were believers in General Baptist Doctrine had held meetings in various homes in Smith Addition. Reverend M. J. Gully served as pastor until October 22nd, at which time Reverend J. N. Warren was called.

The organizational meeting was held in a store building on Smith Street. Soon after this a building on the same street was purchased, which was used until 1945. In that year the present site was purchased. A basement had been constructed on this site. In 1950 an auditorium was erected over the basement. Since that time the building has been frequently improved and various additions been made. In 1952 the parking lot was bought.

The church was organized with ten charter members. Present membership is one hundred fifty-five. Average Sunday School attendance for the past year was one hundred eighty-one.

Pastors who have served the congregation are Reverend J. N. Warren, Reverend Arthur Johnson, Reverend T. N. Kindred, Reverend Roy Stanfill, Reverend Hershel Asa, and since 1954 the present pastor, Reverend Robert I. Jones.

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First Assembly of God Church

The First Assembly of God Church in Sikeston was founded in 1939-1940. Reverend Gayle Jackson conducted revival meetings and was successful in establishing the church. So successful was he that he was continued as pastor for the following nine years, during which time the congregation grew in numbers and progressed in housing from wooden tabernacle at South New Madrid and Trotter Streets to a large basement building on Matthews Street. Before Reverend Jackson left to conduct revivals, the congregation had bought real estate at Kathleen and South King's Highway for the permanent home of the church.

The Reverend Jesse Smith of Mobile, Alabama, came to the church as pastor in 1949. During his stay of four years the congregation continued to grow and construction of the two-story educational building was completed. This building was planned so the second floor could be used for Sunday School and the first floor serve as a sanctuary until a separate sanctuary could be erected.

In February of 1953 the Reverend Loren Wooten of Springfield, Missouri, was called. During the next six years the church completed the second unit. The new building, made of

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brick with an overall size of sixty by one hundred six feet, provides the sanctuary, office space, pastor's study, and the nursery. It stands as a monument of faith and victory. There is a full-size basement for Sunday School classes and a kitchen. On the second floor are found additional rooms and an apartment for evangelists. The building, including both units, has over seventeen thousand square feet of floor space.

The present pastor, Reverend James E. Smith, came on June 21, 1959 to minister to this congregation. Reverend and Mrs. Smith and their two children reside at the church parsonage at 910 Lake Street. Reverend Smith and the leaders of the Sikeston First Assembly of God Church believe that the coming years will be the greatest. They express confidence that new records will be established, and that the church will continue to grow and expand.

Sixth Street Church of God

The Sixth Street Church of God was organized in 1948 with eight members. The building was constructed in 1951-1952. The parsonage was constructed in 1954. The Sunday School Annex was built in 1955. The church is now being redecorated.

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The pastors have been Reverend U. Ferrell, Reverend U. F. Ketcherside, Reverend Tom Burns, Reverend Archie Duley, Reverend R. C. Martin, who is now at Matthews, Missouri, Reverend Irvin Burris, who is now at Parma, Reverend E. M. McAlister, and Reverend G. N. Hammack.

The Fellowship Baptist Church

The Fellowship Baptist Church has experienced tremendous growth the past few years. The church started as a mission from the First Baptist Church and Miner Baptist Church in 1949. In 1950 the mission moved into its present buildings, with a membership of fifty-three and eighty-one present in Sunday School. Today the church has over two hundred members. the budget has been tripled, including gifts to missions through Cooperative Program and Associational Missions, raising of salaries, building improvements, equipment, and other agencies of vital interest to the church.

There have been one hundred seventeen additions the past two years and as a result the church has enjoyed the most spiritual atmosphere it has ever known. The church carries on a full program including Brotherhood, Women's Missionary Society, and their auxiliaries.

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The pastor is Reverend Vernall Daugherty, just completing two years as leader of the congregation.

The building of our proposed sanctuary will start early in 1960. The Cline Ables Construction Company, with volunteer labor from our members, will be doing the work.

The church is affiliated with the Charleston Baptist Association and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Second General Baptist Church

The Second General Baptist Church of Sikeston was organized by Reverend Roy Stanfill in 1949. Services were first held in the home of Reverend Stanfill at the Airport. The only recognized deacon was Brother E. M. Stanfill. Originally there were eight active members: Reverend and Mrs. Roy Stanfill, Brother and Sister E. M. Stanfill, Brother and Sister Homer Henson, Miss Marie Venable, and Miss Norma Stanfill. The trustees were Brother Homer Henson, Sister Ada Stanfill, and Brother E. M. Stanfill.

After about four years at the Airport the church purchased a large lot on Illinois Avenue. The city gave the church a garage building in which to have meetings and Mr. Omal Johnson moved it to the church grounds.

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Two years later when the congregation outgrew the building, the congregation decided to erect a new sanctuary and use the old structure for an educational building. In the new church are facilities to accommodate a choir of forty-eight, an auditorium seating four hundred fifty, two restrooms, and a baptistry. In the educational building are classrooms and a kitchen.

In 1957 Reverend Stanfill resigned. Reverend W. M. Dock then took the pastorate for six months. Then for four months the church was without a pastor until Reverend James E. Denbow, the present minister, came in July of 1958.

The deacons now are Brothers George Dockery, Tobe Rae, and Al Tolliver. The trustees are Brothers Woodrow Warren, Al Tolliver, and Irvin Thomann. The Sunday School Superintendent is Brother Woodrow Warren. The membership is active. Average Sunday School attendance is one hundred fifteen. Second General Baptist Church belongs to the United Association and Presbytery. The congregation participates in the monthly United Youth Fellowship of the General Baptists and usually wins the trophy for having the largest representation.

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Wesley Methodist Church

In July of 1956 the Methodist men of First Methodist Church purchased the old First Christian Church building on South New Madrid Street for \$15,000 for the purpose of beginning another Methodist church in the city. The money was secured from the Planter's Bank of Sikeston with an agreement that it is to be repaid with interest within five years, or the debt must be refinanced within that period.

Services were begun in September of 1956, being conducted by various laymen. Only evening services were held at first because First Methodist Church was making temporary use of the building while their church was being re-decorated.

Reverend Chester Pulliam, the pastor, held the first morning service October 7, 1956, with twenty-four for Sunday School and forty-three for morning worship.

The first members to join the church were Mr. and Mrs. William O. Chappell and two sons, Bob and Jimmie; Mrs. Ethel Clayton; Ruth and Jeanette Pulliam; and Flora Casson; with Mrs. William Foster and Veda Mae Foster joining the following Sunday.

Present membership is eighty-four.

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Morgan Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

The Morgan Chapel Missionary Baptist Church was organized December 18, 1958, with Brother Less Morgan of Mayfield, Kentucky, as full-time pastor. There were fifteen charter members.

The church conducts an all-Bible Sunday School, with Brother Less Morgan teaching the adult class, Sister Katie Morgan the junior class, and Sister Stout the small children. Each class uses the Bible as its Sunday School text.

On August 9, 1959, a mission was started at Morehouse Colony. There are fifteen members at the mission

Eastside Church of the Nazarene

Eastside Church of the Nazarene was organized on Easter Sunday morning, March 29, 1959, at the altar of the First Church of the Nazarene in Sikeston with the general superintendent, Dr. W. I. Vanderpool, present, and the district superintendent, Dr. E. D. Simpson, officiating.

Twenty-one persons from the membership

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of the First Church of the Nazarene responded to form the nucleus of the second church of the denomination in the city

The newly formed congregation soon acquired property. An entire block of ground bounded by Ralph, Betty, Robert, and Indiana Streets was purchased. On this was a building that, with some renovation, would be suitable for church purposes. Plans are in the making for a modern parsonage to be erected on the site. Facilities to accommodate various recreational activities on the spacious grounds are also planned.

On Sunday morning, July 5, 1959, the new congregation met in its beautifully finished auditorium for the first Sunday School and church services. On Sunday afternoon, August 9, the church was formally dedicated in a Grand opening service in which the other six churches of this immediate zone were represented and participated. District Superintendent, Dr. E. D. Simpson, was the special speaker for the occasion.

Eastside Church of the Nazarene is fully organized with all departments functioning. Mrs. J. W. Hoffert, an ordained elder, is serving as pastor at present.

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Temple Baptist Church

The Temple Baptist Church located at the corner of Jaycee and Jackson Streets has completed and is using one unit of a planned four-unit educational building. When the whole structure is complete, this unit will serve the junior and primary departments of the Sunday School.

The building is of brick veneer and will cost approximately \$25,000 when completed.

The Temple Baptist Church is two years old, and has an attendance between eighty and one hundred at the present time.

Reverend Lester Thomas is the pastor.

Murray Lane Baptist Church

For several years members of the First Baptist Church have realized the need for a church that would minister to the residents of Clayton and Stallings Additions in southwest Sikeston. A recent survey shows there are five hundred prospects in the immediate vicinity; realistic evidence of the need for Murray Lane Baptist Church.

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Nearly two years ago steps were taken to accomplish this dream when a three-acre plot was purchased on the south side of Murray Lane, extending four hundred fifty feet west from Montgomery Street. Following that purchase the First Baptist Church formed a mission Committee on August 18, 1958, with Paul Higgins, associate pastor as chairman, and A. J. Day as co-chairman. Helen Johnson was secretary.

Paul Higgins, A. J. Day, Charles H. Butler, and Howard McGill were sent to Nashville to confer with the Department of Architecture of Southern Baptist Convention's Sunday School Board concerning plans for the proposed building. Buchmueller, Whitworth, and Associates were selected as architects. On September 17, 1958, three subcommittees were set up for building, survey, and organization purposes.

Reverend E. D. Owen has served as ex-officio member of the committee and Roger Stewart, minister of education and music of First Baptist Church since July 1959, has been a member also.

April 2, 1959, the contract for the building was let to New Lumber Company of Dexter, Missouri, for \$48,018. Ground breaking ceremonies were held Sunday, April 12, 1959. Construction began almost immediately. Though the building was not completely finished, it was opened for the first services on January 3, 1960. That day there were seventy-seven people in Sunday School, thirty-five in Training Union, and a total of two hundred five in the two wor-

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ship services.

The building is fifty by ninety feet. It is a brick and block structure with year round air-conditioning. It includes an auditorium seating one hundred fifty, two nursery rooms, and classrooms for beginners (4-5 years), primaries (6-8 years), and juniors (9-12 years). Folding doors provide other classrooms within the auditorium and a kitchen and three restrooms are provided. Plans for expansion allow extension of the building fifty-four feet, and the attachment of a new auditorium at the front of the present building. At that stage the building will accommodate four hundred people. Sufficient land is available for further facilities.

In November 1959 Reverend C. D. Butler of the First Baptist Church, Marietta, Oklahoma, was called as pastor of the church. Mr. Butler was reared in Sikeston and since 1946 has served the churches at Commerce and Senath, Missouri, and Leon and Marietta, Oklahoma. He is a graduate of Southeast Missouri State College and of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Fort Worth, Texas, and has done graduate work at the latter institution.

Workers at the new church as well as members of First Baptist Church were elated at the response. It is expected that in the not too distant future Murray Lane Baptist Church will become one of the great churches of the city, at least from the standpoint of its meaning in the lives of many people.

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church

On December 5, 1946, a group of people from Sikeston, Charleston, Dexter, and Bloomfield met in Sikeston to organize St. Paul's Episcopal Mission. On December 16, 1946, the Diocesan Council gave its consent to the establishment. Reverend Bayard H. Clark of Christ Episcopal Church in Cape Girardeau was appointed Senior Warden.

Services were conducted in the homes of Episcopalians in the area. Regular services began in the summer of 1950 with the following rectors in charge: Reverend Bayard H. Clark, Reverend John Pettus, Reverend William Fitzhugh of Blytheville, Arkansas, and Reverend S. A. Parrigan of Poplar Bluff. Through the efforts of Reverend John DeForest Pettus, rector of St. Mark's Church in Jonesboro, Arkansas, the nucleus of the future St. Paul's was formed.

Due to the generous contributions of three local men -- Mr. E. P. Coleman Junior, Mr. Jackson Davis, and Mr. Thomas B. Allen -- to the building fund ground was broken in February 1952 for St. Paul's Mission Church under the direction of Kenneth Smitten and Richard Logan of Charleston, Missouri. The Reverend William C. Johnson and the Reverend John

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Tierney served as vicars. Under the Bishop Coadjutor, the Right Reverend Arthur Lichtenberger, St. Paul's was dedicated in September 1952. Mr. Kenneth Smitten was appointed Senior Warden.

On June 18, 1956, St. Paul's building was damaged by lightning. The church was restored and a parish house was built. The Reverend Harlow P. Donovan was the first resident pastor. Mr. Harris Draughon was serving as Senior Warden. Two years later Mr. Carlton Moreton of Charleston was appointed Senior Warden.

In April 1959 Reverend James F. S. Schniepp came to Sikeston as resident vicar of St. Paul's. Senior Warden at the time was Mr. Richard L. Watkins Junior. In January 1960 the Right Reverend George C. Cadigan, now Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, appointed Mr. Paul Handy Moore of Charleston, Missouri, as Senior Warden.

Tanner Street Church of God

The Tanner Street Church of God was organized in 1938. For two years the small group worshipped in the home of their pastor, Reverend J. B. Brunk on Matthews Street. Two tent revivals were held during this time--one on a

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lot behind the present Nailling Tractor Company and the other on the lot presently occupied by the McDougal Insurance Agency. Some of the charter members were: Mr. and Mrs. Dock Hawkins, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. H Keasler Junior, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Thurmond, Mrs. Laura Lathum, and Reverend and Mrs. J. B. Brunk.

In 1941 the O. C. Lewis family moved to Sikeston and the erection of the first unit of the present church plant was completed under their leadership. In May of that year Reverend Brunk delivered the dedicatory sermon, the first service held in the new building.

Sunday School was organized in May 1941 with thirty enrolled. By the time the church had a full-time pastor, the Sunday School numbered sixty-five. There was an air of optimism when Reverend H. McConough arrived in June 1943 to serve as the first resident pastor. During his two years stay the church enjoyed a steady growth, the average Sunday School attendance being about one hundred. The church purchased the property at 228 Sikes Street which is presently serving as a parsonage.

In January 1946 Reverend and Mrs. Vernon Guttenfelder started a twelve year tenure as pastors.

In 1947 the Sunday School plant was erected. In 1952 the recreation building was added and in 1956 the sanctuary was enlarged to its present size.

The Guttunfelders were very talented musi-

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cians and during their stay the church was recognized as the musical church. Two choirs, an orchestra, and many combinations of singing groups were organized.

In September 1957 Reverend E. D. Johnson was called to succeed the Guttenfelders. In a short time an organ was purchased.

Westend Missionary Baptist Church

The Westend Missionary Baptist Church, with eighteen charter members, was organized in City Hall in 1922 under the leadership of Reverend N. A. Murray. In 1923 lots were bought and a brush arbor constructed for worship. In 1924 a basement was built and services were conducted here until 1929 when an auditorium was added.

In 1942 the building was enlarged and brick veneered, and a furnace was installed. A new platform was built for the rostrum in 1945.

Between 1946 and 1950 the church purchased part of the old Lincoln School building and erected an annex to the church. Indoor toilets were installed and one hundred chairs were purchased. A parsonage was built.

Between 1951 and 1959 the church purchased the old Lincoln School site, and added new equipment and improvements to its building.

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Mrs. Irene Murray and Mrs. Emma Anderson are charter members. There are two hundred members. Reverend J. M. Blow has been pastor since 1951.

St. John Missionary Baptist Church

St. John Missionary Baptist Church was organized in Sikeston in 1924 by Reverend Sidney Davis Woods, a native of Holmes County, Mississippi, assisted by the Reverends N. H. Hunter, J. R. Bell, and G. L. Gilbert. Twenty-five people were present. Five--Sallie Seals, ----- Bindon, Saddle ----, Annie C. Woods, and Ann Green--accepted membership. On the second Sunday in July 1924 ten men and women joined the little flock. Mr. Thomas Strong and his family joined the following Sunday. St. John's has grown from the original five members to a present membership of three hundred and it is still growing.

The group had no place to worship except under a walnut tree where Reverend S. D. Woods' house is now located. Arrangements were made with Mr. Tom Baker to use a vacant house on his farm temporarily. When cold weather came the group worshipped in one home after another until spring, then again under the same old walnut tree.

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The congregation in April 1924 called Reverend S. D. Woods to pastor the church, he being simultaneously the pastor of two other congregations. On the third Sunday in May 1924 Reverend Woods began a revival, and at the close of that meeting baptised thirty-five candidates. At this time the farmers were busy planting cotton. Many of them gave empty seed bags which were stretched over rafter poles to make an arbor where services were held--except when it rained.

Under Reverend Woods' leadership the group raised \$180.00 toward a building. He then loaned the church, interest free, \$1,500.00. With these funds was built the concrete temple at Westgate and North Streets, of which the members are quite proud. Mr. Charles Blanton Senior gave enough pews to fill the church from the pulpit to the door.

Many of the white people encouraged this little colored congregation in its work and contributed to the building fund.

The church has had several pastors since Reverend Woods resigned. Reverend S. M. Gayles served one year; Reverend S. D. Woods for sixteen years; Reverend C. H. Cason, one year; Reverend A. Harris, seven years; Reverend C. H. Ronison, two years; Reverend R. T. Shipp is pastor now.

St. John's is represented in most of the Missionary Baptist departments from the Baptist Training Union to the National Baptist Convention. It is the headquarters for Christian Liber-

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ty District Association, the largest association in the state of Missouri. It owns over six hundred acres of land in Southeast Missouri.

The motto of the church is "Win the World to Christ."

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

The African Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in 1760 by Richard Allen at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The church celebrated its two hundredth anniversary February 14, 1960.

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in Sikeston in 1925 with the Reverend J. W. Edgehill as its first pastor. It was located at 100 Luther Street in the west end until 1945 when it removed to 300 Westgate Street under the leadership of Reverend P. W. Henderson.

Reverend J. T. Eldridge is the pastor in charge and Bishop R. R. Wright presides over the Fifth District.

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Church of God in Christ

In August 1907 Elder C. H. Mason called all ministers that believed in the doctrine of the baptism of the Holy Ghost, that is, speaking in tongues, to meet in Memphis, Tennessee, for the purpose of organizing a General Assembly of the Church of God in Christ, whose faith is founded on the pentecostal movement. At this meeting Elder Mason was elected Chief Overseer. Under his leadership the church has flourished and spread throughout the entire country.

In the year 1943 under the leadership of Elder Clyde Hatchett the church was organized in Sikeston, Missouri, on Dixie Street with just a few members.

The present pastor is Elder C. H. Green; the membership is thirty-five. The congregation is erecting a building which, when completed, will be one of the most beautiful churches in the neighborhood.

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Smith Chapel Church

Smith Chapel Church was organized in 1923 at Tanner, eight miles northwest of Sikeston. Reverend J. P. Bishop was pastor. Reverend Leroy Woodrich, District Superintendent of the St. Louis District, was in charge. Services were held in Landers Ridge School. The church was named for W. M. and Mattie Smith, leaders of the group. Other founders were T. W. and Iva Knox, G. W. and Luella Smith, and Willie and Vinnie Simpson.

In 1938 Smith Chapel was moved to Sikeston. The District Superintendent, Reverend L. R. Grant, saw fit to send to Sikeston Reverend J. B. Ross as pastor in 1938. At the time the congregation had no building, so it worshiped with the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal and St. John Baptist churches for a time. Later the pastor and members of the church purchased an old dance hall from Mr. Ed. Fuchs. At that time Mr. J. W. Knox, Mrs. Mattie Smith, Mrs. Nola Smith, Mr. J. W. Ashford, Mr. Fred Smith, Mr. Ben Smith, Bernice Wilson, Thelma Wilson, Frankie Roberts, and Ben Junior Thomas were among the members.

Under the thirteen years of leadership by Reverend Ross the membership grew from seven to forty-two. Reverend M. W. Higgins is the present pastor.

Chapter six

CONCLUSION

Sikeston, without experiencing any of those booms which periodically strike towns of a mushroom growth, has been steadily growing in size, importance, commercial activity, and wealth until it has attained a population of some seventeenthousand souls, all of whom are busy, prosperous, and useful citizens.

As an agricultural center Sikeston has few equals, and no superior. Its soil is unusually rich and this allied with a mild climate and long growing season enables the farmer to produce diversified crops in rich profusion. It is, therefore, evident that the city of Sikeston, prosperous though it is, will continue in that sure and conservative march of progress which has hitherto marked its growth.

Sikeston can boast of stores that would be

HISTORY OF SIKESTON

no discredit to a metropolitan center, of many beautiful homes modern and convenient in every particular, of one of the best medical centers in the country, of splendid factories, of vast mercantile interests, of one of the best daily newspapers in the country, and of one the largest milling companies in the state.

In the 1960 Dun and Bradstreet reference book Sikeston is listed as having three hundred seventy-nine businesses. The current survey of Sales Management estimates there are 4,800 households in the city, with 5,000 consumer spending units. The 1958 effective buying power of the people in the city proper was the not unimpressive figure of \$20,686,000.00; which is \$1,318 per person, \$4,137 per consumer spending unit, and \$4,310 per household.

It appears that Mr. Sikes' town is doing right well on its one hundredth birthday, thank you. As a matter of fact, this centenarian is a spry and sturdy youngster who looks to the future with a spring in his step and a gleam in his eye!

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